THE 10 BEST ALBUMS OF THE DECADE, PG 40



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Hospital funding freeze would mean longer lineups: Critics

DEFICIT Ontario residents should expect to pay upfront for more healthcare services and endure longer lineups if the Liberal government makes good on its threat to freeze funding for hospitals next year, critics said Thursday.

Health Minister Deb Matthews is warning hospitals to brace for a possible budget freeze this spring because the province is grappling with a \$24.7-billion deficit.

The most hospitals can hope for is an increase below last year's 2.1 per cent boost — less than inflation which critics say is so meagre it has already forced hospitals to close beds and cut services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Meye

What's this barcode for? Learn how to scar the barcode with the top of pg 2





Journalist still has faith



Avatar simply stunning





Salvation Army Street outreach worker Richard Charles, left, gives homeless man Mark T., better known on the street as Sparky, a pair of long underwear and socks during a stop Thursday on Bank Street.

om t ne col

Deep freeze sees shelters over capacity for first time this year, extra demand for toques and gloves

TIM WIECLAWSKI

Bundle up, the first cold snap of the winter is going to last for a few more days.

Environment Canada is forecasting lows to hover below -20 C for the weekend. It's going to warm up a little bit at the start of next week, but warning preparedness meteorologist for Environment Canada Peter Kimbell said the cold weather is likely to persist for a while longer.

Until this week, the winter temperatures had been above normal, said Kimbell, so we were due for a cold snap.

"It's really par for the course this time of year,' he said.

The average December in Ottawa has four sub -20 C days, said Kimbell, but "That's what we focus on, making sure our clients are wrapped up in layers. If they need to come in, we're flexible enough to be able to open other buildings."

Rob Eady, Shepherds of Good Hope

Wednesday night was the first time this season that the temperature dropped below -20 C.

The cold snap meant the shelters in Ottawa were swamped with homeless people attempting to escape the cold.

For most of the winter, the Salvation Army shelter had been running around 95 per cent capacity. On Wednesday night it was over capacity for the first time this year.

Michael Maidment. spokesperson with the Salvation Army in Ottawa said they open extra areas at the downtown Booth

Centre on George Street so people can escape the cold.

The Salvation Army outreach program also attempts to bring people in-to the shelter, said Maidment. Outreach workers also travel with extra hats, mittens, coats, sleeping bags and blankets for people who refuse to go into the shelter.

Rob Eady with the Shep herds of Good Hope said they have to put mats down to accommodate the extra demand.

The most noticeable effect of the cold weather is extra demand for mittens

That's what we focus on, making sure our clients are wrapped up in layers," he said. "If they need to come in, we're flexible enough to be able to open other buildings."

Everything Shepherds of Good Hope hands out comes from community donations.

At the Ottawa Mission, emergency services man-ager Joey Clare said they also get much more demand for boots and warm clothing.

Throughout the winter, the Mission will hand out 1,000 coats and pairs of boots, said Clare.

Beds at the Mission are usually filled during the winter, but when the weather gets colder, it fills up a lot sooner, said Clare.

Share Your Views ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Harper lays low at COP15

Go Green



lion American plan. The prime minister hobnobbed with other leaders at a royal dinner hosted by the queen of Denmark, passing up the chance to deliver Canada's address to the UN climate talks late Thurs-

Protest

A number of

leaders opted

to break bread

royalty instead

of addressing

ence. But they

were remind-

ed of the busi-

ness at hand

when a pair of

banquet, un-

banners read-

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Talk. Leaders

the hall by se-

Greenpeace

activists

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Act"

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Danish

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were dragged from

day. Instead he delegated the job to Environment Minister

Jim Prentice. Prentice's speech reiterated many the Conservative government's stated positions on climate change. They

clude the contentious notion that any deal in Copenhagen should recurity guards. the place

Kyoto Protocol, rather than the complementary "Kyotoplus" option supported by developing countries.

Prentice's speech is unlikely to ease criticism from developing countries and environmentalists who accuse Canada of failing to make concessions to help reach a deal.

His address came after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton offered to help raise \$100 billion a year for the next decade to help the most vulnerable nations cope with a warming plan-THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Meye



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Ride OC Transpo free on New Year's Eve
Ottawa residents have a safe way of getting home from their New Year's Eve festivities. OC Transpo
services are free after 11 p.m. on Dec. 31., with service extended until 4 a.m. Mayor Larry O'Brien, transit committee chairman Alex Cullen and Cam Atchison, area manager from Molson Coors Canada will announce more details Friday. Alain Mercier, general manager of transit services and representatives from MADD Ottawa will also attend. METRO OTTAWA

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News in brief

SURGERIES Thousands of area patients will benefit from a new regional hip and knee replacement program that will improve quality of care through better co-ordination of services. Starting Jan. 4. patients can choose their hospital — Montfort Hospital, Queensway Carleton Hospital, the Ottawa Hospital or Cornwall Community Hospital and choose between the first available surgeon or the surgeon of their choice.

METRO OTTAWA

metr@news.ca What's online today

Video A University of Calgary researcher learns that prehistoric humans had a much healthier diet than previously thought at metronews.ca/canada **Blogs** It's Called Football

welcomes The Fix author Declan Hill to discuss the fight against matchfixing

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Woman plans bike ride across Africa

Carleton instructor to pedal 11,800 km, buy bicycles for local health-care workers

TRACEY TONG

While many people are eyeing fitness and philanthropy goals for the new year, a Carleton instructor is working now to make hers happen.

A contract instructor in the School of Mathematics and Statistics, Lynne Wolfson will be trading in her laptop for a bicycle and thousands of kilometres of open road when she takes the winter semester to ride her bicycle across Africa.

11,800-kilometre The ride, which starts Jan. 16 in Cairo and will take the 26-year-old Ottawa native through Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, wraps up May 15 in Cape Town.

The beneficiaries? Health-

care workers in Africa, for whom Wolfson is hoping to purchase dozens of bikes.

"When you go to a place, you don't want to feel like you're just taking," said Wolfson. "I wish to give back something I strongly believe in: Bicycles. The most accessible, sustainable and efficient form of transportation in the world."

For health-care workers. getting around is key, Wolfson explained. "Having a



Lynne Wolfson will be riding 11.800 kilometres across Africa.

car in Africa is fairly expensive and bicycles are efficient for transportation and faster than walking. They can get to places they may not otherwise be able to get

to and see more people."

The trip will be a challenge, even for the former competitive cyclist.

"I'm pretty nervous," she admitted. "You're on the bike everyday, all day, and that's not something you can train for at home.

People can track Wolfson's trip at www.lynnewolfson.wordpress.com or on Twitter (LynneWolfson).

Craft sale Recycled originals



These guys have baggage — the good kind, that is. U.S.E.D. designer and owner Trevor Kelher, left, and his friend, Ottawa musician Marc Charron show off Kelher's bags and visors — made from recycled seatbelts — at the Originals Ottawa Christmas Craft Sale Thursday. The show, which runs at Lansdowne Park through Sunday, features over 200 artists, artisans and designers.

Animal cruelty case goes to court in January

The Ottawa Humane Society will have its first case proceed to trial - since the provincial animal cruelty act came into effect in March — in the new year.

A Navan-area farmer was

charged with animal cruelty after OHS inspectors found a dog with injuries and a sheep, rabbits, chickens and ducks on a property without adequate shelter, food or water.

A veterinarian later humanely euthanized the dog, due to the extent of its injuries and overall health.

The trial for Maurice Mouawad, 54, is set for Jan. TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Sens offer incentives to season seat holders

After 19 home games this year, the Senators are near the bottom of Canadian teams when it comes to attendance.

Average attendance per game so far this year is 17,871 with three sellouts, which is down 6.6 per cent from last season.

The season ticket base is slightly over 10,000. That's down from 11,500 last year and 13,000 in 2007 — the season following the team's Stanley Cup final run.

'We've had a couple of vears where we haven't met our high standards and expectations and that is where we've seen the decrease," said club president Cyril Leeder. "We like to have a winning team here in Ottawa. We demand it of ourselves and our fans demand it."

To encourage season ticket holders to hang on to their tickets, and to attract new fans, Leeder announced a number of incentives to encourage season ticket holders Thursday.

All season seat holders will see at least a two per cent price decrease next year and they could get an

"We like to have a winning team here in Ottawa. We demand it of ourselves and our fans demand it."

Cvril Leeder. club president

extra two per cent if they purchase tickets early. There will be even deeper reductions for areas of the rink that are traditionally hard to sell, said Leeder.

Season seat holders will be able to purchase tickets for the first two rounds of playoffs at the same price as regular season games. They will also be able to purchase additional playoff tickets at a discounted price.

Anyone who has held season tickets for five years or more will also get free parking at Scotiabank Place.

Starting Thursday, season seat holders will also be able to trade their tickets for another game of equal or lesser value, if they can't make it to a game.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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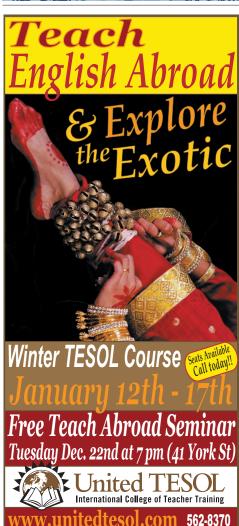
Downtown hotel donating share of bookings to charity

Crowne Plaza Ottawa is donating a portion of its Dec. 20 to 27 bookings to the Friends In Need program, which has distributed over \$820,000 to charities across Canada since its inception in 1999. METRO OTTAWA

News in brief

ANIMALS LEFT OUTSIDE Over the past few days, the Ottawa Humane Society has been busy responding to public calls of concern about animals left outside in the cold. Anyone who sees an animal in distress or without adequate shelter should call the Ottawa Humane Society Emergency Unit at 613-725-1532.





Students give gift of goats

High school youth raise \$6K to buy herd for people in Uganda

TRACEY TONG tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Local students are getting in the spirit of the season by giving gifts that will change the lives of their peers on the other side of the world.

As of Thursday, students at Glebe Collegiate Institute

raised \$6,000 to buy a herd of 80 goats for the people of northern Uganda.

The two-week fundraiser was through Plan Canada's Gifts of Hope campaign, which benefits countries including Columbia, Haiti, the Dominican, Ethiopia, Zambia, Uganda and Burkina Faso.

Giving campaigns like

this have grown in popularity over recent years, said Plan Canada spokesman Steve Theobald.

Although fundraising by Canadians generates important donations, it also has a secondary benefit, of getting kids engaged in international development, he said

"This project has made

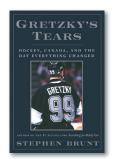
our students realize both how fortunate they are and how easy it is to make positive connections with others around the world," said Glebe teacher Todd Kelly.

"By getting youth involved in helping others, they will become more caring and compassionate," said Grade 11 student Priya

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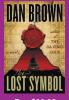
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Saskatchewan opts against nuclear power

Saskatchewan has stopped short of giving a green light to a nuclear power plant, but it isn't putting up a permanent red light either. Energy Minister Bill Boyd says a proposal from Ontario-based Bruce Power for a large-scale plant in Saskatchewan will not move forward. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Ex-CEO wants Nortel to pay for lawsuit

A former Nortel CEO who took millions with him when he left the company in 2001 wants Nortel to cover up to \$1 billion of his costs if he loses a series of class action law suits filed by former employees. John Roth, left, filed a U.S. creditor claim in a U.S. bankruptcy court on Dec. 1. U.S. Nortel employees and former employees filed the lawsuits about four years ago against Nortel and those at the company who were responsible for managing the company-sponsored investment plan.. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Mankind is inherently good': Lindhout

ORDEAL Despite more than a year of abuse at the hands of Somali captors, a Canadian freelance journalist says she still believes people are fundamentally good.

6

Amanda Lindhout re-leased a statement yesterday thanking her family and others for securing her freedom after 15 months being held hostage in the lawless African nation. An accompanying photograph showed her smiling broadly next to a white Christmas tree.

"My faith in human decency was sorely tested at times during my captivity; however, after my release, I am humbly reminded that mankind is inherently good by the tremendous efforts and support of fellow Canadians," she wrote.

Lindhout was kidnapped along with Australian photographer Nigel Brennan



Amanda Lindhout is shown in a photo released by her family.

along a crumbling road in southern Somalia on Aug. 23, 2008.

They were released Nov. 25. several months after both their families hired a private hostage negotiation firm to secure their release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metrenews.ca



Lindhout's complete statement, or read it metronews.ca/canada.

Dutch had plan to build Afghan prison

Questions raised about other detainee options

Who or what killed a Dutch and British-backed proposal to build or renovate a safe prison facility for all Afghan detainees taken in southern Afghanistan?

It is one of the mysteries raised by diplomat Richard Colvin's allegations before a parliamentary commit-

The Dutch proposal first came to light after a June 2, 2006 email authored by Colvin, that remains largely censored due to the government's concerns over "national security," was first reported by the Toronto Star last month.

Conditions

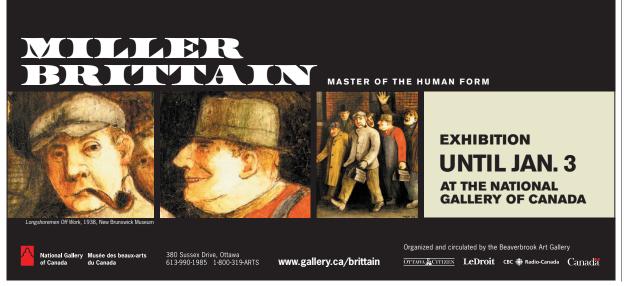
 Prison conditions in Uruzgan — where Dutch forces were deploying crowded, dirty and disgusting. The Red Cross gave it a rating of 33 per cent, whereas it gave Sarpoza prison in Kandahar 67 per cent.

In a letter sent this week to the parliamentary committee, Colvin further revealed the separate detention facility was "a serious proposal that in spring 2006 was actively being pursued and promoted by two of our principal NATO

allies" who remained "in-

terested through 2007."
It is not clear why the proposal went nowhere, although Colvin may have been partly responsible because he also reported to Ottawa that the Red Cross rated the Sarpoza prison in Kandahar province where the Canadians were based — as the best of a bad lot in southern Afghanistan.

Colvin's June 2006 email outlined reasons the Dutch wanted to build a separate jail in Kandahar to hold detainees captured by Dutch, Canadian and British sol-THE CANADIAN PRESS



Teens sentenced for murder plot

SCHOOL Two teens who plotted to corral students in a Winnipeg school auditorium and randomly open fire "until they got tired" have each been sentenced to two years in jail.

The 17-year-old male and his 18-year-old girlfriend, who cannot be identified under court order, had pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit murder.

They both apologized at a sentencing hearing in October. The young man admitted he "really screwed up," while the girl said she wanted to "apologize to the community and all that I have affected with this act of mine."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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8 canada

Judge rules against ban on gang colours

A judge has ruled a law banning the wearing of gang colours in Saskatchewan bars violates a person's right to freedom of expression. The case involved Jesse Bitz, 36, a member of the Hells Angels. Bitz was charged under Saskatchewan's Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act in 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Holiday Service



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Holiday Service

December 21 to January 1

A special revised service will operate during the Christmas holidays for a two-week period from December 21 to January 1. Special school services will not operate during this period.

CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25 and NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1

A **Sunday** schedule will operate, with only those routes that normally run on Sunday in service including the **O-Train**.

BOXING DAY. December 26 and December 28:

A Saturday service will operate.

December 21-24 and 29-31

A **reduced weekday** schedule will operate on most routes, and your usual weekday **trip time may vary.** Call 613-560-1000 *plus* your four-digit bus stop number or visit octranspo.com for holiday schedules. The O-Train will run on a regular weekday schedule.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, December 31

Service will be **FREE** after 11 p.m. and Transitway service on routes 95, 96 and 97 will be increased and extended until 4 a.m., compliments of Molson Coors Canada.

Schedule Information

All holiday schedules are available at octranspo.com, or call 613-560-1000 plus your four-digit bus stop number for the scheduled arrival times of your bus up to six days in advance.

Create your own personalized travel plan with the automated Travel Planner at octranspo.com. It's fast, it's easy and you get instant results.



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December 25	
December 26	
December 27	
December 28	
December 29-31 *	
January 1, 2010 .	
January 2	

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December 21-24	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
December 25	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
December 26	8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
December 27	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
	8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
	8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
January 2	о з р.ш.

Customer Relations (613-842-3600) will be closed December 25, 28 and January 1 and will operate from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 21-24 and 29-31.

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..Closed......Closed

.9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.....11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pot use worse than thought: Study

The effects of daily cannabis use on teenage brains is worse than originally thought and the long-term effects appear to be irreversible, new research from McGill University suggests.

The study, by Dr. Gabriela Gobbi, a psychiatric researcher from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, suggests that daily cannabis consumption can lead to depression and anxiety.

iety.
The new study, published in Neurobiology of Disease, suggests that the reputed "soft" drug has an impact on serotonin and norepinephrine, compounds which help control mood and anxiety.

Her research team observed that 18 rats exposed to cannabis had decreased levels of serotonin, which affects mood; and higher levels of norepinephrine, which makes one more susceptible long-term to stress.

"These permanent changes in the brain are also linked to certain mental illnesses, like schizophrenia," Gobbi said

in an interview Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilsands pumps \$21B into Canada, Stelmach says

POLLUTION Ganging up on Alberta's polluting oilsands is becoming a national sport and it's on full display in Copenhagen.

But what would the country look like if the cash flow pumped from the Western oil patch was suddenly turned off?

Alberta's premier says his province's oil-rich economy provides the rest of the country with about \$21 billion — which, by way of comparison, is more than all of Canada's \$18-billion defence budget, and about half of what Ontario spends on health Care. THE CANADIAN PRESS

INFO 613-741-4390 octranspo.com



Ottawa is not showing the true cost of pensions it gives employees, a think tank says.

And it should come clean before it starts reforming the retirement-income system, the C.D. Howe Institute says.

It says the federal debt would have climbed an additional \$58 billion over the past 10 years if Ottawa had valuated the pensions

Pension powwow

Finance ministers from all provinces and Ottawa are meeting in Whitehorse to negotiate how best to put retirement income for all Canadians on a steady

it offers public servants. In the last year alone, if Ottawa had done its math than doubled the size of \$6-billion federal deficit.

"I wouldn't go as far as saying they're cooking the books," said Alexandre Laurin, senior policy analyst at the think tank.

"But the cost is greater than what the government is actually saying," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gay MP attacks 'bigots' in Christmas card furor

hallmarks of a politician's glossy Christmas card

Pastoral setting? Check. Doe-eyed golden retriev-

Handsome couple dressed in smart casual? Check.

Same-sex couple?

That was too much for "a handful of bigots" who objected to Scott Brison's greeting card depicting him and spouse Maxime St. Pierre, according to the Nova Scotia Liberal MP.

'The overwhelming response has been very positive," Brison said from Windsor, N.S. "There's always a very, very tiny minority of bigots.

At least one news website shut down its com-



The card: Scott Brison, Maxime St. Pierre and their dog, Simba.

ments section running under a story about the card.

But Matt Mills, editorial director of the gay news group Pink Triangle Press, said it's a mistake to block homophobes.

"Our approach is that shutting down comments when there are homopho-bic remarks that come out really just drives that homophobia underground.' THE CANADIAN PRESS



An Investigational Oral Contraceptive Pill Clinical Research Study

Many women who take the birth control pill have pelvic pain, cramping, or headaches during the hormone-free interval (the week off the pill when they either take sugar pills or no pill at all). They may also have breast tenderness, nausea, vomiting, heavy bleeding, bloating, or swelling.

A new birth control method has been developed in an investigational study and is currently being evaluated in a worldwide research study. This investigational drug may reduce the amount of pelvic pain or headaches women have during the hormone-free interval compared to other birth control pills.

You may qualify to take part in this study if:

- You are between 18 and 50 years old
- You are currently taking a monthly birth control pill
- You have pelvic pain/cramping or headaches during your week off the pill

For more information, please contact: Lorraine Denis Clinical Research Coordinator The Ottawa Hospital - Riverside Campus 613-738-8400 ext 81732

This research project has been approved by the Ottawa Hospital Research Ethics Board.

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10

Authorities say dead woman's family collected benefits

The daughter of an 87-year-old woman whose corpse was kept in her house for seven months after she died appeared in court in North Carolina Thursday. A sheriff's deputy said that the woman's family had continued to collect her government pension checks after she died. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Berlusconi released from hospital

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was discharged from a Milan hospital on Thursday, four days after he was attacked by a mentally ill man at a political rally. The 73-year-old leader suffered a fractured nose and broken teeth in the attack. TV footage, left, of him leaving San Raffaele Hospital showed the conservative leader and media mogul with a white bandage around his nose and face as he waved weakly with one hand.

Drought hammers East Africa again

AFRICA Millions of people in drought-stricken East Africa face hunger after seasonal rains failed again, withering crops, killing livestock and drying up ponds and streams, an aid group said Thursday, Oxfam said some areas had received less than five per cent of normal rainfall for November, African delegates in Copenhagen have repeatedly accused rich countries of polluting with greenhouse gases and then leaving underdeveloped countries to deal with the resulting

drought and starvation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Getting closer in Copenhagen?

U.S., China make progress as clock ticks away for global climate deal

Large pieces of a climate deal fell into place Thursday with new offers from the U.S. and China, but other tough issues remained before American President Barack Obama and other leaders can sign off on a political accord to contain the threat of an overheated world.

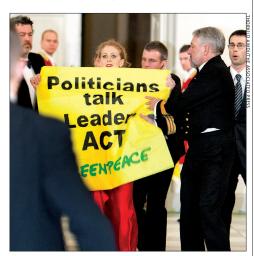
An announcement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that the United States would contribute to a climate change fund amounting to \$100 billion US a year by 2020 was quickly followed by an offer from China to open its books on carbon emissions to international review.

The U.S. delegation did not immediately react to the offer by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei.

Go Green

But it went a long way toward the U.S. demand that China report on its actions to limit the growth of Beijing's carbon emissions and allow experts to go over its data. The sudden concessions on the eve of Friday's final session lifted hopes that the 193-nation conference could reach a framework agreement that could be refined into a legal accord next year on limiting greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change.

Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao were to join more than 110 leaders Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Activists from Greenpeace gatecrash a State Dinner hosted by the Queen of Denmark Thursday. The activists were arrested

News in brief

IRELAND A Roman Catholic bishop in Ireland has resigned after an investigation into child sex abuse by clergymen accused him of ignoring reports of crimes by priests in his diocese, the Vatican said Thursday. A statement Donal Murray read to colleagues in the western Irish city of Limerick left no doubt that he was going because of an Irish government investigation's damning findings about his time as an auxiliary bishop in Dublin from 1982 to 1996. **FRANCE** New airline safety standards may be required after the crash of Air France Flight 447 cast doubt on the reliability of speed-measuring

equipment in stormy conditions, French investigators said Thursday. The Airbus A330 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil in June, killing all 228 people aboard. Accident experts still have little idea about why the plane went down.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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12 world

Fugitive doctor stabs self as police close in

An Indiana doctor on the run for five years on charges of fraud and
malpractice was arrested on a snowy mountain in northern Italy, and stabbed himself
in the neck as he was taken into custody, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. study shows a body language bias

Through a set of ingeniously concocted experiments reported in Friday's journal Science, researchers show that white characters in TV series display far more negative body language toward their black peers than to members of their own race.

The bias conveyed by these body clues is not only recognized subconsciously by people who watch the shows, but significantly influences their feelings about the black characters.

"Sadly, we observed that non-verbal race bias is a typical pattern on scripted television shows," lead study author Max Weisbuch said in a release on the paper.

In the first experiment, researchers used clips from 11 different television programs — including Bones, Grey's Anatomy, CSI and Scrubs — and digitally removed one of the characters participating in the scenes. They then muted any onscreen conversations and recruited college students who had never seen the episodes to watch.

"We took out the target character, who was either black or white, and the (remaining) character was always white," senior study author Nalini Ambady said.

"Then we just showed people and said 'how much does this person like the person they're interacting with?" said Ambady, a Tufts University social psychologist.

The student viewers, it was found, consistently judged the body language expressed by the visible white characters as more negative whenever the unseen character in the scene was black.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

FLORIDA James Bain made his first-ever cellphone call Thurs-day, dialling his mother to tell her he had been freed after 35 years in jail for a crime he did not commit. Mobile devices didn't exist in 1974, when he was sentenced to life for

kidnapping a nine-year-old boy and raping him. Bain had spent more time in prison than any of the 246 inmates previously exonerated by DNA evidence in the U.S.

BRAZIL The stepfather of a two-year-old boy found with

42 needles in his body confessed to jabbing them into the toddler during weeks of rituals with a woman he claimed received instructions through trances, Brazilian police said

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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14 world

Foreign adoptions plunge in U.S.

The number of foreign children adopted by American citizens dropped by 27 per cent in the 2009 fiscal year, reaching the lowest level since 1996 and prompting advocates to urge Congress to help reverse the trend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Owner Steve Horowitz

Mean munchies on menu at Ganja Gourmet

Any slacker living over his parents' garage can make pot brownies, but gourmet chefs are taking the art of cooking with marijuana to a higher level.

In Denver, a new medical marijuana shop called

Ganja Gourmet serves cannabis-infused specialties such as pizza, hummus and lasagna.

The evolution of pot cooking has followed an explosion of medical marijuana in recent years. Many health-conscious patients would rather eat the drug than smoke it, and they're looking for more options than brownies.

Ganja Gourmet's menu includes lasagna ("LaGanja"), "Panama Red Pizza" and an olive tapenade called "ganjanade," along with sweets such as cheesecake and muffins.

Employees wear tie-dyed T-shirts that proclaim, "Our food is so great, you need a license to eat it!!!" All patrons must show a medical marijuana card.

Diners are allowed one item every 45 minutes, though 90 per cent of the business is takeout. A whole pizza sells for \$89.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Comment & Views

Comment

Taking a walk through the past year



ur holiday publishing sched-ule being what it is, this will be the last Urban Compass of the year, and our annual shoulder-check. So, that was 2009, eh? My boots have more miles and

less polish on them, but

you're looking good. This time last year, as you'll hardly need reminding, we were bogged down in a 53-day transit strike. which stretched cruelly over Christmas. Mercifully, this year's walkout by workers at the Canadian Muse-um of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum has ended before the workers and their families had to face a similarly bitter holiday. Early in the new year, though, Algonquin College's faculty union will hold yet another strike vote.

After Mayor Larry O'Brien's acquittal this summer on charges of attempted bribery and purported influence peddling, much of our civic attention was captured by the future of Lansdowne Park, and that one is far, far from over. If you were suffering a little Lansdowne fatigue by fall, you weren't alone. I almost ran over poor Clive Doucet in my haste to get out of yet another bloody press conference on Lansdowne Live.

The highlights of this year for me were almost always the people I met. When I outlined my discomfort with proposed Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) legislation, which would have made it easier to shut down crack houses and evict undesirables, I heard from my class act MPP, Ottawa Centre's Yasir Naqvi, who had sponsored the bill. Over coffee, he explained his intentions and tried to address my concerns about due process and potential abuse.

This, it turns out, is very much Naqvi's style. He also participated in a meeting

organized fiercest local opponents. I know a lot of politicians who balk at entering a room where a contrary opinion is likely to be heard.

I was also impressed by Ryan Kostiuk, a commerce major at Carleton, whom I photographed sliding with fellow first years down a watered, oiled tarp on a steep hill during frosh week

What the picture didn't show, and the story, edited for space, didn't reveal, was that to join in, he first had to get out of his motorized wheelchair.

"I'm affected by cerebral palsy," he told me. "I've had it my whole life but it's never stopped me from what I want to do and I'm here to enjoy Carleton and see what I can bring to the table."

Here's to another year of bringing it, Ryan.

As for you, Metro reader, please accept my sincere thanks for walking with me. See vou in 2010.

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa; ottawaletters@metronews.ca.

Girls and women: No limits on dreams



Belinda Stronach

Over the past generation our society has made considerable progress in reducing barriers women's success. Yet, despite our progress, troubling inequalities persist and affect the lives of millions of girls and young women around the world.

In developing countries, one person in eight is a girl or a young woman age 10 to 24. As the fastest growing segment of the population, their welfare is a fundamental input for key economic and social outcomes. Giving these girls an education, legal protection, health care, and access to training and job skills will significantly contribute to what is known opment. A girl who finishes high school has access to a job that pays more than subsistence wages

the and chance to Canada must take start a small business. Edu- the lead and call cated women to put girls and invest 90 per cent of their women at the incomes into centre of the their families, development compared to roughly 30 narrative." roughly per cent by

their male counterparts.

The gap between what we know and what we do. between our ability to end poverty and our efforts to do so lie at the heart of the problem. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) challenge the world's leading economies to meet targets framed in results-oriented terms. MDG 3, for example, calls

as the girl effect on devel- to promote gender equality and empower women. The target was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary ed-

ucation by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015 Four after vears the 2005 target date, gender parity in education has yet to be

achieved.

As Canada prepares to host the G8 and G20 summits in June 2010, we must use this historic opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the advancement of girls and women worldwide. Canada must take the lead and call to put girls and women at the centre of the development narrative. Doing so will

yield huge returns in the health of families, peace building, and global economic development.

On this critical issue Canada will be standing to-gether with governments such as Spain and the Netherlands, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, global foundations and the private sector in responding to the mounting evidence that investing in girls will break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and, conversely, failure to do so could cost the world's poorest countries billions in economic growth.

For more information on how the NGO community is coming together on this please www.girlsandwomen.com.

Belinda Stronach is chair of the Belinda Stronach Foundation.



Tell us your views by email to ottawaletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metroottawa

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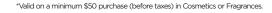
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British Airways has won an emergency court injunction to stop a 12-day strike by its cabin crew, bringing relief to around one million holiday travellers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Business

Inflation jumps again

Canadians are again starting to pay more for most things they consume as the inflation rate jumped to one per cent in November, the second straight month prices have risen sharply.

While higher gasoline prices were mostly to blame, Statistics Canada said the advance was broadbased. Prices rose in seven of eight major components tracked by the agency, and in all 10 provinces.

As well, the month-tomonth index was higher with prices rising 0.5 per m.metrenews.ca



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cent from October.

The last two months have seen a complete reversal in the inflation story in Canada, which previously was one of falling prices and

negative inflation.
But a rapid decline in gas

prices from record highs in July 2008 has reversed trend, the agency

"Prices at the pump are now exerting upward pressure on the Consumer Price Index after an extended period in which they were the main contributors to yearover-year declines in overall consumer prices," agency explained.

Other components pushing prices higher were food, transportation, household operations, and furniture and equipment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoppers opening their wallets leading up to holidays: Survey

CONSUMERS Recession. What recession?

A new survey finds that despite the economic downturn, Canadian shoppers are opening their wallets a lot wider this year than last.

Moneris Solutions Corp., a debit and credit card payments processor, says its figures show sales are up leading into the last weekend before Christmas.

Moneris survey tracks national sales in the final five weeks of the preholiday season. It says in the first weekend of December, shoppers spent five per cent more overall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Weekend, December 18-20, 2009

Blue Bombers coach faces assault charge, loses job

Winnipeg Blue Bombers coach Mike Kelly was charged Thursday with assaulting a former girlfriend at his home in Bridgeport, Penn. Later in the day he was fired. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Injuries don't deter Canadian ski team

VanderBeek third to be hurt this week

The Canadian ski team was rocked again Thursday as another Olympic medal hopeful headed to hospital. But the rest of the team refuses to be bundled in bubble wrap in the leadup to the Games.

Kelly VanderBeek tore up her knee in a fall during World Cup downhill training at Val d'Isere, France. The 26-year-old is the third Canadian this week and the fourth in the last month to fall out of Olympic contention through injury.

VanderBeek became the second Canadian woman in as many days hurt at Val d'Isere, prompting the coaching staff at an evening team meeting to give the remaining skiers the option of skipping this weekend's races and returning home.

There was no hesitation. The women wanted to stay

Iniured Canadian skiers

 John Kucera — The reigning world champion in downhill broke his leg in a Nov. 29 su-

per-giant slalom race.

• Jean-Philippe Roy — The giant slalom specialist ripped up his knee Sunday in a World Cup race at Val d'Isere.

and race.

VanderBeek, who has a suspected torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee, attended the meeting. She told her teammates "I know you have what it takes. I know you guys can rocket."

The injuries to Vander-Beek, world downhill champion John Kucera, giant slalom specialist Jean-Philippe Roy and up-and-comer Larisa Yurkiw are a hammer blow to a ski team that had set a goal of three medals at the Olympics.

- Larisa Yurkiw Suffered a knee injury Wednesday in downhill training at Val d'Is-
- Kellv VanderBeek Suspected torn ACL in left knee after fall Thursday in training at

I just can't sleep any-more," said Max Gartner, Alpine Canada's chief ath-

letics officer. It's awful."
Patrick Riml, Alpine
Canada's women's team director, said the injuries have strengthened the resolve of the already closely knit team.

"Everybody is ready to win now," he said in a telephone interview. They said These are two tough setbacks for us this week. We are going to show the world how Canadians are."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bengals receiver dies after falling from truck

Chris Henry was no stranger to trouble.

Indeed, his multiple arrests during a five-year NFL career were among the factors prompting the league to toughen its personal conduct policy.

But to hear his teammates tell it the team's owner — the Cincinnati Bengals receiver was determined to leave behind his troubled past and move ahead toward a bright future.

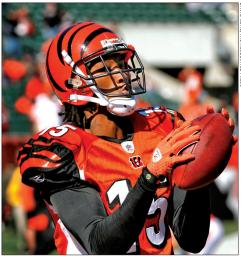
Tragically, his efforts were cut short when he died from injuries in what police said was a domestic dispute with his fiancée.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police said the 26-year-old Henry died early Thursday, less than 18 hours after he fell off of the back of a pickup truck on a curvy residential street about eight miles northwest of downtown Charlotte.

The cause of death was not immediately released.

Henry was away from the Bengals after suffering a season-ending broken forearm in a game last month.

'We knew him in a different way than his pub-



Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry died Thursday, a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck.

lic persona," Bengals owner Mike Brown said. "He had worked through the troubles in his life and had finally seemingly reached the point where everything was going to blossom. And he was going to have the future we all wanted for him.' THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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22 sports

Men's tennis tournament returns to Atlanta

The men's tennis tour is returning to Atlanta, putting a hard-court tournament in the city that will be played July 17-25, 2010, and start off the U.S. Open Series. The ATP tour bought the sanctioning rights to the Indianapolis tournament that has been held in July but recently had attendance and sponsorship issues. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many happy returns await soccer icons in Champions League draw

SOCCER Beckham to Old Trafford. Mourinho to Stamford Bridge. Or Ancelotti to the San Siro.

Three icons of European soccer could return to the scene of past glories after UEFA draws the matchups for the Champions League knockout round-of-16 Friday.

The draw structure keeps apart winners of the eight first-round groups, which include three English and three Spanish sides, who will play their first-leg matches away at one of the runners in

one of the runners-up.
So, Group B winner Manchester United could be drawn against AC Milan,

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which will have former United favourite David Beckham back in its ranks when he joins on loan from Los Angeles Galaxy next month.

Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho has Group D winner Chelsea, which he led to two straight English Premier League titles between 2004-06, as one of six possible opponents.

That tie would send Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti back to the city he left last season after eight years coaching Milan—another of the Blues' seven potential opponents.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's hidden treasures



very time the Lou Marsh Award pops up all Canadian sports fans get an eye-opener. There's a ton of talent out

The mystery is why most of the candidates that make it to the final ballot for consideration as Canada's athlete of the year are anonymous to most people

in this coun-

try.
This year,
Sidney Crossby, the brilliant captain of the Stanler Crossby.

ley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins, captured the prize named after the late Toronto Star sports editor — an award that dates back to 1936 and whose recipients have included Wayne Gretzky, Barabara Ann Scott, Catriona Le May Doan and Mike Weir.

For Crosby it's a second victory, and well-deserved, considering he's the best Canadian hockey player alive and led his team to arguably the most difficult championship to capture in North American professional sport. Just about everybody knows Sid the Kid's name.

The same is true of Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns, a perennial finalist because he's the best playmaker in big-time basketball

But that's where the familiarity gets fuzzy.

It's a revelation to discover that Canada also boasts sluggers like Jason Bay and Justin Morneau, each capable of more than 100 RBIs in Major League Baseball. Or that Daniel Nestor, the best doubles player in tennis, hails from north of the border.

If you dig deeper you understand that world champions like Christine Nesbitt of speedskating, John Kucera of alpine skiing, Jasey Jay Anderson of snowboarding and Alexandre Bilodeau of freestyle skiing also bleed red and white.

This is to say nothing of swimmer Ryan Cochrane, who won two medals at the world aquatics championships, or Priscilla

Lopes-Schliep, a hurdler who captured silver at the world track and field

summit.

They are Canadians close to the pinnacle of the most contested sports on the face of the Earth.

The names already mentioned barely scratch the surface.

There are golfers, mixed martial artists, figure skaters and football players who also deserve consideration.

There are so many jewels of Canadian sport we have yet to fully appreciate. Maybe we should make the Lou Marsh Award more than a one-day deliberation that seems so fleeting.

Perhaps we should make it more inclusive and spark a national celebration, so that all Canadians might uncover our hidden treasures of sport.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.



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24 sports

Bookmaker takings bets on Woods' divorce settlement

If Tiger Woods and his Swedish wife get divorced, Elin Nordegren won't be the only one collecting on the settlement. British bookmaker William Hill is taking bets on just how much Nordegren will get if she decides to divorce Woods. Bettors can get 25-1 odds that Nordegren will receive more than half a billion dollars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

ALOUETTES The Montreal Alouettes have rewarded head coach Marc Trestman for leading the team to the Grey Cup championship. The Alouettes have reached an agreement with Trestman that will keep him with Montreal.

SNOWBOARDING Jasev-Jav Anderson and Michael Lambert swept the top two spots at a World Cup men's parallel giant slalom snowboarding competition Thursday, Anderson, of Mont-Tremblant, Que., edged out Lambert in the final for his 25th career World Cup victory

across all disciplines. The result was a positive one for Lambert, as well: The Toronto native picked up the first of three top-5 results needed to automatically qualify for the Olympics. WORLD CUP Brazil will spend \$280 million US to renovate Maracana Stadium, closing the historic venue next year to spruce up the centrepiece of the 2014 World Cup. Opened for the 1950 World Cup, Maracana is expected to be reopened in December 2012, government officials said Thursday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Vancouver opens door to UFC

Vancouver city council has approved a two-year trial period for mixed martial arts, opening the door for an Ultimate Fighting Championship show in the city as soon as next summer.

Councillors voted six to three Thursday to allow Vancouver to regulate and sanction the combat sport, which is expected to generate millions of dollars for the local economy

UFC president Dana White, who has Vancouver pencilled in for a show next year, was quick to celebrate the news.

"Vancouver is sanctioned!!!." he said via Twitter. "Another one down! Thanks to everyone in Vancouver who helped. See you in 2010."

Under the pilot program, promoters such as the UFC must ensure the city can't be held liable for

damages. Coun. Andrea Reimer. who voted against the motion, said she struggled with the idea of regulating a sport that promotes violence in its marketing material.

Reimer said she's concerned that allowing mixed martial arts in Vancouver will spur young people to get involved in it.

"It's become very hard for me to see the logic in

passing this motion," said the former school trustee

"I've spent a lot of time as a school trustee dealing with the fallout of kids who have been desensitized to violence because of adult sanctioning of violence, but then adults also saying it's not appropriate for children to participate in the same level of violence that we have sanctioned ourselves."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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part of their health care.

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time we may want to take x-rays and healthy teeth and a pretty smile. which can reveal any decay between As parents, you should ask the the teeth. These x-rays will also dentist about appropriate ora show if the child's teeth are coming hygiene procedures and nutritional hygiene procedures are hygiene procedures and nutritional hygiene procedures are hygiene hygiene procedures and hygiene procedures are hygiene hy cases, a check-up every 6 months will enable the dentist to catch any sma∎ problems that may develop at an early stage.

first visit fun and relaxing, even if it spots or lines on the teeth. These just involves a "ride" in the chair to may appear on the necks of the start with. Using the right tech-teeth, next to the gums. Dark-niques, the dentist or hygienist can coloured teeth are also a problem often transform the most anxious sign. If you should observe any o child into a cooperative little patient these symptoms, please take who is no longer afraid - a child who will leave the dental office with a smile on his or her face.

To educate and enlighten children, we can introduce them to the infection. intraoral camera which goes into the mouth and then projects pictures of

It's important to get an early start on their teeth onto a TV screen. They dental care so that children learn can also learn something about that visiting the dentist is a regular proper dental hygiene with big oversized toothbrushes.

spoken to with honesty, bu Your child's first visit to the dentist careful wording can alleviate can be at around age 1, and your fearful images, so the dentist car child needs to start seeing the manage those early visits posi dentist regularly by age 2 or 3, when tively. Speak enthusiastically o most if not all of the 20 baby (or upcoming dental visits, emphasiz primary) teeth have arrived. At that ing benefits such as having clear

> care, even before your child's firs dental visits.

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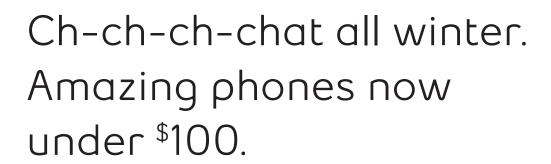
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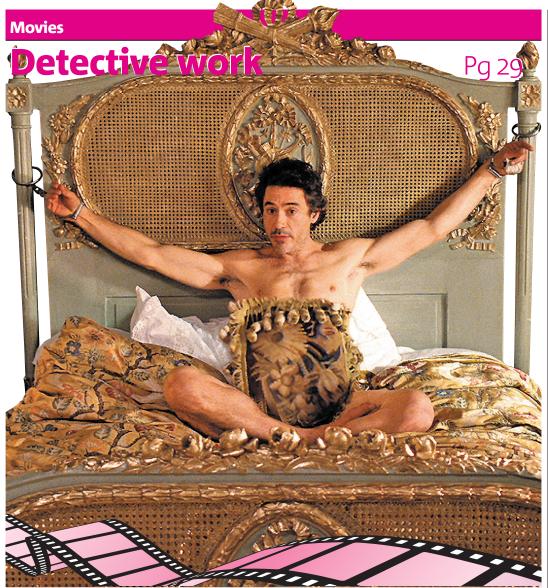




Weekend, December 18-20, 2009 metronews.ca

Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

Movies&Entertainment



Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law team up for the most recent film version detailing the antics of famous detective Sherlock Holmes. For his part, Downey Jr. says he went back to historical source material to convey an accurate portrayal.



Avatar is a truly immersive experience, says reviewer.



Jackson's guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has a new album.



TV set decorators talk festive trinkets and knickknacks.





At a glance

Avatar *** About The Morgans ***/, The Young Victoria ****/, Unmistaken Child ***/

movies&entertainment 29

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POO

Downey in the groove for Sherlock

NED EHRBAR Metro World News

Robert Downey Jr. has an admittedly difficult history with London. "I was here 20 years ago and the food sucked," he says, though he's quick to add, "I kind of sucked 20 years ago. Far be it from me to say what was good when and where. I barely remember any of it." But with his new Sherlock Holmes set for release next week, he's feeling better about all things British.

In bringing a new version of the famous detective to the screen, Downey was expecting more of the pressure of history. "It's funny. Sherlock Holmes would be the one you'd think has the most onus on it," he says of the characters he's played. But during filming, he insists he got the distinct feeling they were doing everything right. "Sometimes you just

feel like you're in the right groove, and you feel the history and the legacy of something," he says. "Sometimes you just feel like you're being silently approved of from some other place and time."

A key element in rounding out Holmes was finding a Watson he worked well with, and Downey insists he couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law. "I'm used to people saying, 'Well you and so-and-so who's female have this great chemistry," Downey says. "They're talking about Jude and I like we should be doing romantic comedies together."

While Downey's Holmes might not be something audiences necessarily find familiar, the actor insists it's a more accurate portrayal. "We were reinterpreting that character by actually going back to the source material — what he looked like, how he behaved, that



Robert Downey Jr. couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law, he says.

he was a martial artist," Downey says.

While talk of martial arts and fighting has several Hollywood observers nervous, it was the bare-knuckle boxing scene that sealed the deal for Downey. "By the time we were done shooting that scene, I felt like we really had a handle on the movie," he says.

"Not because we finally toplit me and I showed my rippling abs and all that selfimportant garbage, but be-

cause it was a really bold thing and it could've gone really poorly, in which case the rest of the movie is try-

On the web

• For movie photos, trailers and screen times or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

ing to recover from a bad Guy Ritchie idea. But it was literally perfect, and I think it set the tone."

Looking forward, Downey is more than happy to be tied up with a successful pair of franchises. "Ideally, the Iron Man thing will pan out another time or two, a bit of Avengers going on. I have a feeling Sherlock is going to make a comeback. I think it's going to be well-received and do business."

Basterds, Precious, Up in the Air lead SAG Awards noms

AWARDS Up in the Air, Precious and Inglourious Basterds led the Screen Actors Guild Awards with three nominations each Thursday, among them honours for George Clooney, Diane Kruger and Mo'Nique.

The Second World War rewrite Inglourious Basterds and the Harlem story Precious: Based on the Novel Push By Sapphire are competing for the guild's overall cast prize, along with the 1960s British drama An Education, the Iraq War tale The Hurt Locker and the musical Nine.

The corporate-downsizing tale Up in the Air was shut out of that category but scored a lead-actor nomination for Clooney as a frequent-flyer whiz and two supporting actress slots, for Vera Farmiga as his new love and Anna Kendrick as his new protege.

The film's Canadianborn director, Jason Reitman, was not nominated.

Kruger picked up a supporting-actress honour as a German movie star and Allied spy in Inglourious Basterds, which also earned a supporting-actor slot for Christoph Waltz as an exuberantly ruthless Nazi. The ASSOCIATED PRESS



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30 movies&entertainment

A plethora of best song options for this year's Oscars

Sixty-three songs from eligible feature-length motion pictures are contending for nominations in the Original Song category for the 82nd Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday. DEADLINE.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR





Cameron's Avatar well worth the wait

Avatar

Director: James Cameron Stars: Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Giovani Ribisi Classification: STC Rating: @@@@½

NED EHRBAR Metro World News

The best word to describe watching James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar is, overwhelming. The tech-savvy director has created a truly immersive experience, utilizing 3-D and motion capture technology to create the brandnew, vibrant world of Pandora, and its slender, yelloweved. blue-skinned

inhabitants, the Na'vi.
The smartest thing Cameron does is keep the story simple. It's something we've seen before: A native population stands in the way of the goals of an invading force — in this case, humans led by a greedy corporate honcho (Giovani Ribisi) and a marine colonel (Stephen Lang) displaying Apocalypse Now

levels of menace.

As Sam Worthington's Jake is sent, via a human/Na'vi hybrid body (or avatar), to infiltrate the Na'vi, he falls in love with one of their own (Zoe Saldana) and takes their side. With an unchallenging story, Cameron leaves plenty

of room for the technical splendor to do the heavy lifting, and he strikes a great balance.

The film isn't perfect, of course. Some of the exchanges and declarations are rather clunky, as dialogue was never really Cameron's strong suit. And there are several less-thansubtle criticisms of Bush administration foreign policy - something that apparently can happen when it takes five years to complete a film. But the overall effect is mesmerizing and well worth the wait.

• For an Avatar trailer, photos, and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.



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Movies

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You'd rather not hear about the Morgans

Did You Hear About The Morgans

Director: Marc Lawrence Stars: Hugh Grant, Sarah Jessica Parker, Sam Eliot Classification: PG

PHIL BROWN for Metro Canada

nada 🖁

In general Hollywood romantic comedies are unbelievable star vehicles with reheated plotlines that are predictable from the first scene.

Expectations have to be lowered for most movies of this type because rom-com audiences simply don't want deviations in the established formula. However, from time to time something like Did You Hear About The Morgans comes along that is so ludicrous and clichéd that even people who enjoy these sorts of movies have

to admit it's a failure.

Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker star as an estranged married couple and will surprise no one by appearing as a befuddled British lawyer and wealthy go-getter New Yorker respectively. One night, while trying to rebuild their bonds, they somehow witness a murder and end up in the witness protection program.

The couple are sent to Wyoming to stay with a cute country cop husband and wife team played by Sam Eliot and Mary Steenburgen. Do you think there's a chance that this troubled big city couple might work out their marital woes as they learn love simple country life?

The movie is a simplistic and inoffensive time waster and for some that will be enough. However, anyone whose brain is remotely active while watching the film is sure to be put off by

a script so tired that it actually features a scene in which Steenburgen admits that her previous marriage squabbles were solved when her cowboy husband bought her a gun and a cow ... you know, just like real country folk

country folk.

There's no semblance of reality here, it's a universe governed by clichés. While it's always nice to see Grant, Parker, Eliot, and Steenburgen trot out their established screen personas for laughs, no good will the audience has for the cast could possibly overcome the laundry list of problems with the halfhearted screenplay and ham-fisted direction. If anyone asks, you haven't heard anything about the Morgans and want nothing to do with them.

• For a Did You Hear About The Morgans trailer, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

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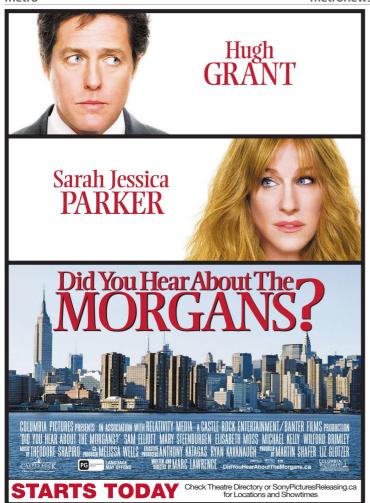












34 movies&entertainment

Reel Time

9●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

An engaging journey

Unmistaken Child

Director: Nati Baratz Classification: STC Rating: @@@½

IAN GORMELY

Many directors want to answer some of life's greatest existential questions like why are we here or is there a God? But all documentary filmmaker Nati Baratz wants is to find one toddler in the mountains of Nepal.

In his new film Unmistaken Child, Baratz follows Tenzin Zopa, a Tibetan monk on his journey to find the reincarnation of Lama Konchog, his recently deceased life-long master.

Through a series of meetings Tenzin determines that Konchog was reincarnated as a young boy somewhere in the Nepalese mountains. Knowing no other life than the one he had with his master, Tenzin sets out scouring local villages — including a re



Unmistaken Child features the Dalai Lama on a quest to find the reincarnation of his master, Lama Konchog.

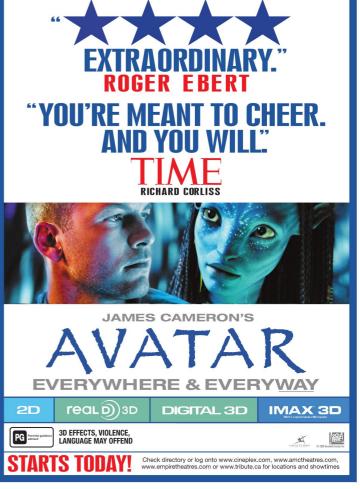
turn trip to his own — for young male toddlers, looking for any sign of recognition when he dangles Konchog's old prayer beads in front of them.

When he finally discovers one who he believes is Konchog's reincarnation, Tenzin still needs confirmation of the reincarnation from the other lamas. And even if this child is Konchog, the child's fate lies in the hands of his parents who must choose between their son and their faith; are they willing to give up their child so he can pursue religious studies with other monks?

This is a beautifully shot and engaging film, even if you think reincarnation is mystic hooey. Baratz employs a cinema verite style, stepping back and following Tenzin across Nepal as he searches for his reincarnated master.

Though this gives viewers a better sense of what Tenzin must endure both physically and mentally, the lack of an objective voice deprives them of a deeper understanding of the Tibetan people and culture. Still, what is gleaned from Tenzin's journey is well worth the price of admission.





Anne Hathaway was involved in a traffic collision in Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon. The 27-year-old movie beauty was sitting on the passenger seat of a car driven by her actor boyfriend, Adam Shulman, when the vehicle collided with a cyclist. ACESHOWBIZ.COM

movies&entertainment 35

Reel Time

●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOI

Cameron not the only perfectionist out there



n the gap between James Cameron's last theatrical feature, Titanic, and his new film, Avatar (in theatres this weekend) Clint Eastwood directed 11 movies, Michael Bay made six and even Uwe Boll, a director so reviled an online petition demands he stop making films, has made 15 in the time it took Cameron to make just one.

So what's the hold up? Some suggest Cameron takes so long between gigs because his commitment to his projects is so intense he wants to be sure he is on the right track before camera starts to roll.

"I want you to know one thing," he allegedly told one producer, "once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."

Also, Cameron isn't bound by the same considerations as most direc-



James Cameron has Stanley Kubrick-like dedication to his movies.

tors. He wrote the script for Avatar in 1994 and was prepared to wait until special effects technology caught up with his vision.

The luxury of having time is what happens when you make the highest grossing movie in history, a fact he celebrates, wearing a t-shirt that reads "Time Means Nothing in the Face of Creativity."

Like Cameron, Stanley Kubrick spent more time off movie sets than on. In a career that spanned 46 years he made only 13 movies but spent years developing pictures that never went into production — like Napoleon, an epic look at the life of the French Emperor that he expected to be "the best movie ever made."

Others choose long layoffs between projects for different reasons. Actor Casey Affleck (Ben's younger brother) had "Once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."

James Cameron

three movies released in 2007 but nothing else scheduled until 2010. Why the break? "To be perfectly honest, I don't really enjoy playing anybody," he says, "except Casey Affleck lying on the couch watching the Red Sox ... usually, when I'm working, I'm not really having a good time."

having a good time."
Then there's Daniel
Day-Lewis, an actor whose
lapses between projects
makes Affleck look like a
workaholic. The There
Will Be Blood star routinely takes years off between
films, once disappearing
from the big screen for
five years. When asked
why he doesn't work
more often he said, "I like
to cook things very slowly. I learnt early on that I
couldn't jump from one
kind of work to another. I
did it a couple of times
and it didn't work."

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.



Emily Blunt plays a believable adolescent Queen Victoria.

C.R.A.Z.Y. director takes a step back in time

The Young Victoria

Director: Jean-Marc Vallee Stars: Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend

Classification: STC Rating: •••

ADAM NAYMAN Metro World News

REVIEW It's a bit disappointing that Quebecois director Jean-Marc Vallee chose to follow up his ecstatic 2005 debut C.R.A.Z.Y. with a Golden Age melodrama. Why would such an unruly, contemporary talent willingly stuff himself into a period-piece corset?

That said, The Young Victoria, which stars Emily Blunt as the eponymous monarch and Rupert Friend as her ardent suitor Prince Albert, is perfectly acceptable filmmaking in the costume drama mode. As an examination of girlin-a-gilded-cage melancholy, it's far more affecting than last year's similar-

ly themed The Duchess (which seemed mostly like an excuse to dress Keira Knightley in a variety of fetching ensembles). Screenwriter Julian Fellowes frames the monarch not as an ascendant icon but a frustrated teenage girl, and it's no small compliment to say that the 26year old Blunt comes off as credibly adolescent (in-cluding a few nicely played temper tantrums).

Vallee eschews the directorial pyrotechnics that marked C.R.A.Z.Y., but still has some trouble finding an appropriately stately pace: The introductions of several major characters and their various roles in palace intrigue (most of it revolving around the 18year-old queen's ability to rule) feel rushed. Eventually, the film settles into a gauzy, romantic groove, building to a climax that feels emotionally authentic even as it plays rather fast and loose with the historical record.



36 movies&entertainment

Darvl Hannah says no to plastic cups

 $Daryl\ Hannah\ wants\ everyone\ to\ ditch\ plastic\ cups.\ The\ 49-year-old\ actress\ -who\ is\ a\ long-time\ environmental\ activist\ and\ has$ been arrested several times — said she wants the world to become more aware of the environment. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Reel Time

● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Hudson singing praise

AARTI VIRANI Metro World News

The last time we were treated to the vocal stylings of Kate Hudson really more of a warbled rendition of You're So Vain in 2003's How To Lose A Guy in 10 Days — we didn't necessarily want more. But the actress executes an impressive double play as she shimmies and croons (soulfully, might we add) in Rob Marshall's latest film, Nine.

As one of the seven bigname beauties gracing Marshall's epic musical about the mid-life crisis of a prolific 1960s Italian film director, Guido Contini (Daniel Day-Lewis), Hudson shares the limelight with a constellation of muses:

Movie feature

Nicole Kidman, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Judi Dench, Stacy (Fergie) Ferguson and Sophia She Loren. plays Stephanie, a sultry American, Vogue journalist, smitten with all things Italian Contini included.

But even though Hudson certainly exudes mystique during her catchy, pop-tinged number, Cinema Italiano, it didn't necessarily come naturally.
"I've come out of a con-

temporary jazz back-ground but there are no flexed feet or pirouettes she admits. "It's a very difficult song to sing fast, articulate and beltv. It took Rob (Marshall) to sort of push that out of me ... and Î wasn't going to let him down."



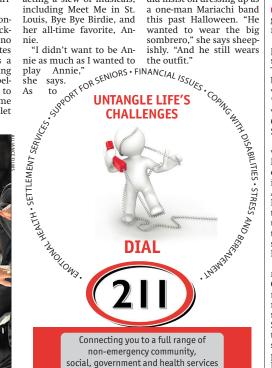
 When describing a scene where her character unabashedly fawns over Guido at a bar, Hudson admits it wasn't love at first site. "We got to get drunk. We were laughing,

with stools flying all over the place. I didn't get the agonized Guido," she shares, alrelieved. "I think most Stephanie is just intrigued by his mystique.

Curtain calling

While growing up in Colorado, Hudson spent many an afternoon reenacting a slew of musicals. including Meet Me in St. Louis, Bye Bye Birdie, and

whether she's passed the performer genes on to her six-year-old son, Ryder, she's not sure, though he did insist on dressing up as a one-man Mariachi band this past Halloween. "He



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Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel opens next week

Chipmunks bring back some high-pitched fun

STEVE GOW for Metro Canada

FEATURE Zachary Levi has gone from Chuck to Chipmunk.

The 29-year old actor who plays the titular electronics store clerk-turned-spy in TV's Chuck is honored to become guardian of the world's most famous rock 'n' roll rodents in next week's release, Alvin & the Chipmunks: Squeakquel.

'I was about eight when I was watching them in the Eighties," said Levi of the decades-old characters during a recent interview in Los Angeles. "And no matter how they've changed in their look and their medium - crude animation in the '80s to now — they're still the same guys. Kids will love them."

And children have definitely loved Alvin & The Chipmunks ever since they made their debut on a Minneapolis radio station singing The Chipmunk Song back in 1958. Further, their popularity has only spread as evidenced by the popularity of their 2007 fulllength film debut, which earned over \$350 million globally.

"Look, there's nothing cuter than a couple of chipmunks singing songs," ex-

plained Levi. "(Producers) Ross (Bagdasarian) and Janice (Karman) have taken that torch and maintained the innocence and the purity and the heart that the Chipmunks have always had. That's what I think keeps people with it."

In the latest cinematic installment of the franchise, Levi is entrusted to the singing trio when their proper guardian Dave (Jason Lee) is hospitalized at the expense of Alvin's wild on-stage antics. Ordered to send the chipmunks to school, Levi's bumbling Toby finds the miniature munks a handful — espe-cially once they become smitten with their furry female counterparts, the Chipettes.

"It is (a little freaky) but it's so cool," said Levi of the Chipettes' high-pitched versions of contemporary pop songs. "(The producers) always make it relevant to wherever they need to be. They did that in the '50s; they do it now so it's cool."

While Levi added the cover of hit single Hot N Cold may have stood out, it was a variation of another Katy Perry song that the jokester would've preferred to hear.

"I was surprised they didn't have I Kissed a Squirrel (And I Liked It), but whatever, I wasn't in charge of the



Kate Hudson sings and dances alongside Daniel Day-Lewis in Nine.

Broken Embraces reunites Cruz, Almodovar

CHRIS ALEXANDER for Metro Canada

FEATURE Wildly irreverent Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar has forged his legacy and found his following by continuously mining Hollywood clichés and reinterpreting them as high art.

His emotional, sexual and passionate movies have defined Mediterranean cinema for over 30 years, exploring sex, lust and melodrama with wit, style and genuine enthusiasm for the medium.

And though his works ave often introduced have many internationally ac-claimed Spanish actors to North American audiences (he put Antonio Banderas on the map in his wacky 1982 comedy Labyrinth of Passion) there is no disputing the fact that the gorgeous Penelope Cruz is his on-screen muse, his female counterpart.

Almodovar has featured Cruz as his heroine more than any other actress, starting with 1997's Live Flesh and continuing with such sensual, visionary fare like 1999's bizarre and beautiful All About My Mother and 2006's equally impassioned Volver.

Their latest collaboration is the layered, tragicomic romantic thriller Broken Embraces in which Cruz stars as Lena, a struggling actress trapped in a loveless marriage. When her wealthy, older husband arranges for her to be cast in a new film by a celebrated director (Luis Homar), a lethal love triangle evolves.

"Lena is a very complex character," says Cruz of her troubled alter ego. "In many ways she is a femme fatale in the classic sense, but she's so much more.'

With Broken Embraces, Almodovar employs a flashback framework and uses the gimmick of having a film within a film, a device that allows Cruz to assume the visages of various classic Hollywood ingénues including Audrey Hepburn and

Marilyn Monroe.

The results are another of the auteur's signature classics, a twisty turny film noir in which Cruz gives her performance since, well, Volver.

But just because their relationship is strong and enduring, doesn't mean that there isn't any on-set friction between mentor and

'Sometimes there are times when he's not good to be around," the actress ad-

mits with a smile.

"He's very open about exactly what he wants ... it can get tense. But I have known Pedro since I was a little girl, I would do anything for him.



Director Pedro Almodovar and Penelope Cruz share a moment on the set of Broken Embraces.

metro

Cineplex

Independent

Museum

AMC

Rainbow Cinemas

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 18 TO THURS., DEC. 24. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA 325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Broken Embraces (14A) Thu 7:55 A Serious Man (14A) Fri 4:45 Sat 4:40 Sun

nistaken Child (G) Fri 7 Sat 9:05 Sun 4:10

Mon 4:30-8:55 Tue 8:55 White Christmas (PG) Tue 4:15 Wed 6:40

The Young Victoria (PG) Fri 9:15 Sat 2:30-6:55 Sun 2-6:25 Mon-Tue 6:45 Wed 4:30-9:10 Thu

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE 240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

The Deep (STC) Fri 3 Sat-Wed 11:30-1:30-3:30 Thu 6 Fri 4 Sat-Wed 12:30-2:30 Thu 7 Sea Exhibition (STC) Sat-Sun 9:30-10-10:30-11

COLISEUM OTTAWA 3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

2012 (14A) Fri 12:40-4:30-8:10 Sat 4:30-8:10 Sun-Tue 12:40-4:30-8:10 Wed 4:30-8:10 Thu 12:15-3:40-7:10

3 Idiots (STC) Wed 12:45-4:40-8:30 Thu 11:40-

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed 12:30-3-5:20 7:40-10:10 No Passes Thu 12:30-3-5:20-7:40 Armored (14A) Fri 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:30 Sat 1:20-7:10-9:30 Sun-Tue 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:30 Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:30-2 3:10-6:15-7-10-10:45 No Passes Thu 11:30-2-3:10-

6:15-7 The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50 Brothers (14A) Fri 1:10-4-6:40-9:20 Sat 1:10-

6:40-9:20 Sun-Tue 1:10-4-6:40-9:20 **Did You Hear About The Morgans?** (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:45-2:20-5:10-7:50-10:30 No

Passes Thu 11:45-2:20-5:10-7:50
Disney's A Christmas Carol (STC) Fri-Wed

12:20-2:50-5;30-8-10:25 Thu 12:20-2:50-5;157:45 Invictus [PG] No Passes Fri-Wed 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40 No Passes Thu 12:10-3:20-6:30 The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann [STC] Sat 1

d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 1 Old Dogs (G) Fri 12:30-35:20-7:40-10:10 Sat 520-7:40-10:10 Sun-Tue 12:30-3-5:20-7:40-10:10 The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 12-2:30-57:30-955 Thu 12:2:30-57:30 The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Wed 1

Wed 1: The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 1:4:20-7:20-10:15 Thu 1:4:20-7:20 Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Wed 1:10-4-6:40-9:20 No Passes Thu 1:10-4-6:40

111 Albert St., 3rd Floor, World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

Brothers (14A) Fri 4:10-7-9:45 Sat-Wed 1:10-

4:10-7-9:45 Thu 1:10-4:10-7 **Did You Hear About The Morgans?** (PG)
Fri 4:20-7:10-9:50 Sat-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:20-9:25 Mon 1:30-4:30-9:25 Tue-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:20-9:25 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:20 Invictus (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Sat-Wed 12:30-

9:20 Sat-Wed 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20 Thu 12:40-

Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (14A) Fri 4-6:50-9:40 Sat-Wed 1-

4-6:50-9:40 Thu 1-4-6:50 The Road (14A) Fri 3:50-6:45-9:35 Sat-Wed 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:35 Thu 12:50-3:50-6:45

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA 710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218, familycinema.ca

No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri Sun-Thu Planet 51 (PG) Sat 2

RAINBOW CINEMAS

St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Astro Boy (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-12:25-2:30-4:40 dy With a Chance of Meatballs (STC) Fri-Thu 12:35-2:40-4:50 Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Wed 10:10-6:55hu 10:10

An Education (PG) Fri-Wed 6:50-9
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Wed 10-12:05u 10-12:05-2:10

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG) Sat

Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Wed 9:05 The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri 10:20-4:30-6:40-8:50 Sat 4:30-6:40-8:50 Sun-Wed 10:20-4:30-6:40-8:50 Thu 10:20-4:30 Pirate Radio (14A) Fri-Wed 4:20-9:15 Thu

Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Wed 10:40-12:40-2:45-5-7:05 Thu 10:40-12:40-2:45-5 **Where the Wild Things Are** (PG) Fri 12:15-2:20 Sat 2:20 Sun-Thu 12:15-2:20

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS 50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) SDDS Digital, No Passes Wed 1:20-3:40-7-9 SDDS Digital, No Passes Thu 12:10-

Avatar (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 4:30-8:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Wed 12:50-4:30-8:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Thu 12-3:20

Passes Thu 12-3:20

The Blind Side (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri
355-640-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Wed 1:09
355-640-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 1:05-3:55
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Dol
by Stereo Digital Fri 4:05-650-9:30 Dolby Stereo
Digital Sat-Tue 1:20-4:05-650-9:30

SOUTH KEYS

2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

2012 (14A) Fri 12-32-58 Sat 3:25-8 Sun-Tue 12-3:25-8 Wed-Thu 12-6:50 Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed 10:10-12:25-255-4:55-70-59:30 No Passes Thu 10:10-12:25-2:35-4:55-70.5

235455705 Armored (14A) Fri 11:145-420-7:20-10:05 Sat 2-15-4257;20-10:05 Sun-Tue 11:145-420-7:20-10:05 Wed 3:55-10:20 Thu 3:55 Avatar (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:10-2:50-645-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:10-2:50-645 Avatar (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 10:2-6:15-

es Thu 10-2-6:15 The Blind Side (PG) Fri 12:20-3:20-6:55-9:55

Sat 11:25-6:55-9:55 Sun-Tue 12:20-3:20-6:55-9:55 Wed 10:05-4:05-6:55-9:55 Thu 12:20-3:20-6:55 Brothers (14A) Fri-Wed 10:50-1:30-4:10-7:15

9:45 Thu 10:50-1:30-4:10-7:15 **Did You Hear About The Morgans?** (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 10:35-1-3:35-6:30-9 No Passes Thu 10:35-1-3:35-6:30

Inu 1035;1-3;35-630
Disney's A Christmas Carol (STC) Fri-Wed
11:45:2:10-4;30-7-9;25 Thu 11:45:2:10-4;30-7
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:10-3:156:40-10:10 No Passes Fri-Wed 12:10-3:156:40-10:10 No Passes Tri-Wed 12:10-3:156:40 The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes
d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 1

Old Dogs (G) Fri 10:40-1:20-3:50-7:05-9:20 Sat 10:40-1:20-7:05-9:20 Sun-Tue 10:40-1:20-3:50-

The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 10:30-1:15-3:40-7:10-9:40 Thu 10:30-1:15-3:40-

The Roval Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC)

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 10:20-1:10-4-7:25-10:15 Thu 10:20-1:10-4-

12:50-3:25-6:35-9:10 No Passes Thu 10:15-12:50-3:25-6:35 Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Wed 10:15

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION 100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

De Tanger a la Mecque (STC) Fri 8 Sat 1 Sun 10 Mon-Tue 4 Wed 1-8 Journey to Mecca in the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta (STC) Fri-Sat 2-5-7 Sun 2-5 Mon-Tue

2-5-8 Wed 2-5 Mysteres des Grands Lacs (STC) Fri-Sun 4

Mysteries of the Great Lakes (STC) Fri 12 Sat 12-9 Sun 12-6 Mon-Thu 12 Safari Sauvage 3D (STC) Fri 1-9 Sat 10 Sun-

Mon 1 Tue 7 Wed 4 Thu 1
Wild Safari: A South African Adven**ture** (STC) Fri 11-3-5 Sat 11-3-8 Sun 11-3 Mon 11-3-7 Tue 11-3 Wed 11-3-7 Thu 11

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER 400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne,

819-248-2526

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Wed 1:10-3:20-7:10-9:20 Thu 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 12:30-4-7:30-11 Sun-

i**nd Side** (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:20-6:50-

Noémie: Le secret (STC) Fri-Wed 1-3-7-9 Thu

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:10-6:40-9:10 Thu 12:40-3:10

CINÉ-STARZ 1100 boul, Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

ustro v.f. (STC) Fri-Thu 12140-3:20-6:40 es Dames en bleu (STC) Fri-Wed 8:15-9:45 a Donation (G) Fri-Wed 5:8-9:40 Thu 5 pleut des hamburgers (G) Fri-Thu 12-353:310-4:45-6:20 ère de glace: L'aube des dinosaures) Fri-Thu 122-400

veil d'un champion (G) Fri-Wed 3:20-7-

9:15 Thu 3:20-7 Max et les maximonstres (G) Fri-Thu 12 Opération G-Force (G) Fri-Thu 1:50-3:30-

Le Quatrième type (13+) Fri-Wed 5:35-7:20-0:05 Thu 5:35-7:20

GATINEAU 9 120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

2012 (G) Fri 8 Sat 4:35-8 Sun-Wed 1-4:35-8 Thu 2

Alvin et les Chipmunks: La suite (G) No (G) FIT 8 Sat 4.35-6 Sam. • et les Chipmunks: La suite (G) § Wed 12:20-2:30-4:30-7:20-9:25 No Pa

Thu 12:20-2:30-4:30 Avatar (STC) No Passes Fri 6-9:30 No Passes Sat-Wed 2-6-9:30 No Passes Thu 12-3:30 **Disney's: Un conte de Noël** (G) Fri 7:1):40 Sat-Wed 12:15-2:45-7:15-9:40 Thu 12:15 nël (G) Fri 7:15

Frères (13+) Fri 6:20-8:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:20-1:20-4-8:45 Tue 1:20-4-6:20-8:45 Haut dans les airs (G) No Passes Wed 12:30

8:15-6:50-9:35 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:15 The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 1

Noémie: Le secret (STC) Fri 6:45-9 Sat-Tue 1:05-3:30-6:45-9 Wed-Thu 1:05-3:30 Où sont passé les Morgan? (STC) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:50 No Passes Sat-Wed 1:15-3:50-

Pour Toujours, Les Canadiens! (STC) Fri 7:10-9:15 Sat-Tue 12:30-3-7:10-9:15 Wed 7:10-

La princesse et la grenouille (G) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Wed 12-2:20-4:30-7-9:05 Thu 12-2:20-4:30 La Saga Twilight: Tentation (G) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Wed 12:45-3:40-6:30-9:20 Thu 12:45-

STARCITÉ HULL 115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090,

cinemasfortune.ca

2012 (G) Fri-Wed 1:05-4:25-7:45 Thu 1:05-4:25

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Wed 12:45-3:10-5:25-7:15-9:35 Thu 12:45-3:10-5:25-7:15

Alvin et les Chipmunks: La suite (G) Wed 12:05-2:15-4:25-7:05-9:20 Thu 12:05-2:15-4:25-7:05 Armored (13+) Fri-Wed 1:10-3:15-7:30-9:50-

10:05 Thu 1:10-3:15-5:30-7:50 **Avatar** (STC) Fri-Wed 12:30-3:50-7-10:15 Thu 12:30-3:50-7 Fri-Wed 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:10 Thu

12:15-3:35-6:55 Avatar 3D (STC) Fri-Wed 12-3:20-6:40-10 Thu 12-3:20-6:40

Brothers (13+) Fri-Wed 1:15-3:45-6:25-8:50 Thu 1:15-3:45-6:25

Did You Hear About The Morgans? (STC) Fri-Wed 1-3:40-6:45-9:05 Thu 1-3:40-6:45 Disney's A Christmas Carol (G) Fri-Wed 12:50-3:05-5:20-7:35-9:50 Thu 12:50-3:05-5:20-

Invictus (G) Fri-Wed 12:10-3-6:35-9:25 Thu

12:10-3-6:35 Ninja Assassin (16+) Fri-Tue 7:30-9:55 runja assassn (10+) rri-lue 7:30-9:55 Old Dogs (G) fri-lwed 12:55-32-55:357:40-9:45 Thu 12:55-3:25-53-57:40 Planete 5.1 (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:10-5:25 Planete 5.1 (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:30-4:40 Pour Toujours, Les Canadiens! (STC) Fri-Thu 12:05-30-1-57:30 Fri-Thu 12:05-30-1-57:30 Fri-

Tue 12:05-2:20-4:35-7:05-9:20
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 Thu 12:25-2:40-4:55-

La princesse et la grenouille (G) Fri-Wed 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25-9:40 Thu 12:40-2:55-5:10-7:25

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS 131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The akquel (G) No Passes Wed 12:40-4-7:20-Squeakquet (u) No Passes Thu 12:40-4-7:20 ar 3D (STC) No Passes Fri 7-10:45 No Pass-

es Sat-Wed 11:30-3:10-7-10:45 No Passes Thu 11:30-3:10-7 The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:50-10:10 Sat 11:50-

6:50-10:20 Sun-Wed 11:50-3:50-6:50-10:10 Thu 11:50-3:50-6:50 **Brothers** (14A) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat 4:10-6:40-

Dividers (149) rft 0240-9220 5at 4:10-6:40-10:20 Sun-Tue 14:10-6:40-9:20 Thu 14:10-6:40 Did You Hear About The Morgan? (PG) No Passes frt 7:30-10:20 No Passes Sat-Wed 12:30-4:20-7:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-4:20-7:30

7:30
Disney's A Christmas Carol (5IC) Fri 7:20-105a†fue 12:40-4;7:20-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (5IC) Sal 1
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 7:10-9550 Mrt 12:24:07:10-950 Wed 12:3:40-7:10-950 Thu 12:3:40-7:10
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Wed 1

Wed 1 **The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Fri 6:30-9:30 Sat-Wed 12:10-3:30-6:30-9:30 Thu 12:10-3:30-6:30

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY 2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

2012 (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-3-6:10-9:35 Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Equeakquel (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:25-

3D (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-2-5-6:15-9

Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30 The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:45-

Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:50-9:20

Did You Hear About The Morga No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-4:10-7:25-10:10 Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 12:353:107:15-9:45 Sat 7:15-9:45 Sun-Tiue 12:35-3:107:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 12:35-3:107:10-9:45 Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:35-6:55-

The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes

Ninia Assassin (18A) Fri 1:10-4-6:30-8:50 Sat 5:30-8:50 Sun-Thu 1:10-4-6:30-8:50 Old Dogs (G) Fri-Tue 12:40-2:50-7:10-9:30 The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu

This 50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50

The Road [14A] Fri 12:45-3:20-6:25-9:10 Sat 3:20-6:25-9:10 Sun-Tue 12:45-3:20-6:25-9:10 Wed 3:55-6:25-9:10 Thu 12:45-3:20-6:25-9:10 The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC)

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:15-6:20-9:15 **Up in the Air** (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:25-1:25-3:25-4:25-6:35-7:35-9:25-10:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-1:25-3:25-4:25-6:35-7:35-9:25-

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2012 (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Wed 10:35-2:05 5:35-9:05 SDDS Digital Thu 10:35-2:05-5:35 Alvin and the Chipmunks:

The Squeakquel (G) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Wed 11:15-

12:15:145:245-415-577:30-925-9:55 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Thu 11:15-12:15-145:245-41:55-6457:15 Armored (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Wed 10:40-12:55:3:15-5:30-7:45-10:15 SDDS Digital Thu

11:25-1:45-2:15-4:35-5:05-7:15-7:45-9:40-10:25 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Thu 10:55-11:25-1:45-2:15-4:35-5:05-7:15 Disney's A Christmas Carol (STC) SDDS ri-Wed 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20-9:40 SDDS

Digital Thu 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:20 Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Mon 10:30-12:45-3:05-5:25-7:50-10:05 SDDS Digital

Ine 10:30-12:49-5:05 Invictus (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:45:3-6:15-9:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 11:45-1-3-46:15-7:15-9:15-10:15 SDDS Digital Thu 11:45-3-6:15 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement

11433-615 SDOS Digital, Special Engagement
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The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) SDDS
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Old Dogs (10 SDD Digital Fir-Wed 115-02-20-4507-10-920 SDDS Digital Thu 115-07-710
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g Victoria (PG) SDDS Digital. Spe-



Billboard's top albums



1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Glee Soundtrack, Various Artists; 4. Fearless (Platinum Edition), Taylor Swift; 5. Play On, Carrie Underwood. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Orianthi and the King of Pop Platinum Blonde enter

Guitarist was to back Jackson on This Is it

KEITH CARMAN for Metro Canada

Rock guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has just released her sophomore full-length Believe.

While the album gleans respect thanks to Panagaris' prodigiousness and a notable history with highlights such as performing alongside fellow fret board gurus Carlos Santana, Eric Clapton and Steve Vai (not to mention backing Prince and Carrie Underwood during her recent Grammy Awards performance), the Australian-born/Greekbred instrumentalist has

an even greater credit to her name.

Panagaris was the guitarist for the late Michael Jackson on his unrealized This Is It string of come-back concerts. So despite the thrill of seeing her own talent gain accolades, the dextrous dame under-stands why people feel more inclined to discuss her brief tenure as sixstring samu-

band playing the solo for

Beat It. I didn't know what to expect but he was so happy with the way I played, he hired me on the spot. I couldn't believe it."

band routinely rehearsed with Jackson troupe, creating a purportedly dazzling return to form for the

rai for the King of Pop. "I didn't know what all was to expect but he me shocked when it happened," she was so happy with the way I played, reflects with he hired me on the a hint of melancholy. "I went to try **believe it."**

out for the Orianthi Panagaris

deeply, she feels little re-

Over the course of the ensuing three months, Panagaris (who typically utilizes her first name) and

the rest of the This Is It disparaged King.

Yet, know. weeks mere before the show was to go on, Jackson passed away. Reflecting, Panagaris veals

that Jackson's essence captured her so

morse at not getting to strut her stuff for the string of 50 sold-out gigs. "We didn't get to do the

shows but we got the chance to play music with him for three months," she smiles. "He was so giving



Orianthi Panagaris was the guitarist for Michael Jackson on his unrealized This Is It comeback. She has a new album called Believe.

to all of us. He wanted us all to have our moment and put everything he had into it. He was happy and enthusiastic about it

"People say he didn't want to do it but you can tell with (the This Is It film) how much he really did. We're never gonna get to play with him again but we got to see how wonderful he was as person and an artist. We were also the last people to be around him. We'll never forget that. It's life-changing."

Such an astounding experience is also the reason Panagaris forgives minds for inquiring more about her time with Jackson than her new record. She expects it, she laughs, noting that overall, she is merely thankful to have been part of such a historical mo-

'It doesn't bother me at all that people ask about my time with MJ more than Believe. I understand that. (The album) was done before I was hired. I have a great band that knew how working with MJ was a dream come true. I don't think it hindered it at all. I'm grateful to have been a part of (This Is It) and now I'm focusing on this.'

Platinum

BAND The '80s pop band Platinum Blonde is being inducted into the Canadian Music and Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame.

Known for such melodic new wave hits as Standing In The Dark, Crying Over You and It Doesn't Really Matter, the band will be recognized at a luncheon March 12, 2010 in Toronto during Canadian Music

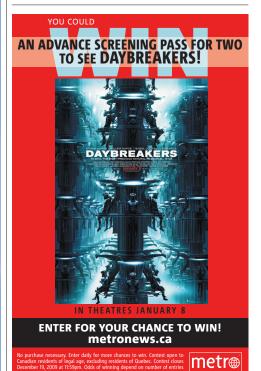
Vocalist Mark Holmes drummer Chris Steffler and guitarist Sergio Galli broke onto the music scene in 1982 with catchy singles, big blond hair and glam-rock style.

Keyboardist Kenny MacLean joined the band in 1985, roughly four years before they would split up.

THE CANADIAN PRESS









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40 movies&entertainment

Music



A Rush of Blood to the Head by Coldplay was one of the decade's best albums.

Best albums from the last ten years

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

ith weeks left in The Decade with Name — Seriously. what will the people of the future call the first decade of the 21st century? Did we ever come up with a name for the years between 1900 and 1909? — 'tis time for the compiling of "best of" lists. Here are my picks for the ten best from the last ten years in order of release date.

Agaetis Byrjun, Sigur Ros (Early 2000): OK, so it was actually released in 1999, but it wasn't until Y2K safely passed that people began to embrace its sublime mellowness. Buy one now. Iceland needs your hard currency.

hard currency.

Kid A, Radiohead (Oct. 2, 2001): Under pressure to follow up 1997's OK Computer, Radiohead deconstructed itself in order to assemble an astonishingly smooth record that doesn't sound like it was made by a rock band.

White Blood Cells, The White Stripes (July 3, 2001): No bass player? Brother and sister or exhusband-and-wife? Didn't matter. She was the mute timekeeper and Jack White was quietly announcing that this was going to be his decade.

This Is It, The Strokes (Sept. 25, 2001): Yes, several of the Strokes were trust-



The Strokes' This Is It was one of the decade's best albums

fund private school kids, but that certainly didn't stop them from making a street smart record that really kicked off the decade's fascination with indie rock.

Songs for the Deaf, Queens of the Stone Age (Aug. 21, 2002): Josh Homme out front, Dave Grohl on drums. In retrospect, the ancestor of Them Crooked Vultures.

A Rush of Blood to the Head, Coldplay (April 1, 2003): Parachutes was a fine record, but it certainly didn't hint towards the superstardom that would come rushing in with the next album.

Elephant, White Stripes (April 1, 2003): Seven Nation Army and the Hardest Button to Button cemented Jack White's rep as the gui-

tar god of the '00s.

American Idiot, Green
Day (Sept. 21, 2004): Aging
punk rockers mount comeback with a punk rock
opera. Didn't see that com-

ing.

Whatever People Say I
Am, That's What I'm
Not/Arctic Monkeys (Feb.
21 2006): They went from
getting guitars for Christmas to the biggest new
band in the U.K. in just a
couple of years. And Alex
Turner has become one of
the decade's best lyricists.

In Rainbow/Radiohead (Oct. 10 2007): Ask people to pay what they think the album is worth? Good luck with that.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

The Beautiful Life back from the dead

Ashton Kutcher's canceled CW drama, The Beautiful Life: TBL, will live again — on YouTube. Citing fan requests, Kutcher put all five episodes on YouTube on Thursday. TVGUIDE.COM



Television

TV set decorators get into the festive spirit

Imagine if your holiday decorations were going to be seen by millions of people. That's the challenge for many TVshow set decorators as all the Christmas-themed episodes roll around.

'Decorations should be what's appropriate for the characters and story," says Hannah Montana set decorator Wendy Fine. "You don't put things outrageous that shouldn't be outrageous. If all they're talking about is the set. the sets were overdone or the actors were really bad."

Like other television show set decorators, she scoured stores and online sites for Christmas trinkets, knickknacks and decorations months before the actual holiday. Most holidav episodes are filmed in the summer and

light frosty

light frosty

and

Mad Men set decorator Amy Wells didn't grow up celebrating Christmas, but the moment I got out of my parents' house, I got a lot of vintage Christmas decorations," she said. "I had a box full of stuff. Old mercury-style in bowls

aqua."
Wells put those vintage finds to good use on the AMC • show, set in the early 1960s at fictional New York advertising firm Sterling Cooper. Season featured everything from a classic Christmas wreath



decoration, including holiday candy bowls, holiday candy,

at Sterling

china Santas and candy canes. Authenticity.

Wells, is paramount. 'We make it look like the art department didn't come in. We make it look like it's real," Wells said. "The decoration was authentic

> decoration that day."

available to people back then was much more limited. There were no twinkle lights," Wells said.

For Hannah Montana. Fine was three's Mad Men fi- YTV is a trade-mark of the Corus™ Entertainment group of companies. asked to find tradi-



Miley Cyrus on the set of Hannah Montana

tional Christmas decorations such as strung-up cards and a red-ribboned wreath for the Disney show's season three holiday episode.

The set included the California house that teenager Miley Stewart's family moved into from Ten-

"The decorations in the house were supposed to be things they may have brought from Tennessee, like traditional Christmas lights," said Fine. "There was nothing very designer about it. It was homev.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A TV show is no longer just a TV show — it's music and more

TELEVISION These days, programming for the tube is a multi-platform endeavour, encompassing online, gaming, music, DVDs, toys and tours in a bid to keep budgets in the black and eyeballs glued to the small screen.

From Heroes to Lost. High School Musical to Glee, recent experiments are pointing to radical shifts in the way stories are told and the way viewers consume them, with observers predicting bold changes to the TV business as it emerges from a decade of fragmented audiences and dwindling advertising revenues.

"Over the next 10 years, literally what we consider traditional ways of telling stories are going to completely fall apart," predicts Peter Vamos of the Banff World Television Festival.

"If it's a good story, it's a good story and if it entertains you, it entertains you and you're not going to have to fit these things within certain types of story arcs — there can be any number of different ways of doing this sort of stuff."

"There will be a fairly dramatic shift soon, even for content that's established in Canada," adds Jeff Gomez, head of the New York-based digital production company Starlight Runner Entertainment.
"There'll be more and more of this kind of cross-



Heroes offers fans more with graphic novels and online content.

platform implementation ... You're going to see really artful and emotionally en-

gaging implementation." What they're talking about is a phenomenon known as transmedia, in which a story might start

on television, evolve online in a new direction and then shift again to take shape as a novel.

Mediawire CEO Ned Sherman points to Heroes as a prime example of the transmedia phenomenon,

noting it's generated hundreds of millions of dollars in additional revenue for NBC Universal through things including online content, magazines, action figures, interactive websites, graphic novels and webisodes.

"Every sign is that net-work television is on the decline and cable continues to do well," notes Sherman.

"From what I hear out there the whole system is under evaluation right now"

Canadian TV production is poised to see an influx of such interactive initiatives with the merging of the Canadian Television Fund and the Canada New Media Fund into the Canada Media Fund, set to launch in April 2010.

The new fund will require applicants to make their projects available on at least two platforms, one of which must be television. Projects produced in high definition will be favoured.

"That is the way of the future. We have a generation of kids who are getting older now, they're headed toward puberty and all they've ever known is the Internet, and so all they've ever known is the validation that is derived from self-expression through two-way communication through the Internet," says Gomez.

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It's a Gilmore Girls mother-daughter reunion on NBC. Gilmore matriarch Kelly Bishop has booked a multi-episode arc on Mercy. Bishop's TV offspring, Lauren Graham, is also starring on a Peacock drama, Parenthood. Ew.COM

Television

Opera gives cash to Atlanta school

IT FEELS GOOD TO GIVE A private middle school, Ron Clark Academy, in innercity Atlanta has received \$1.5 million US from Oprah Winfrey.

The school in one of the city's poorest neighbour-hoods is hoping to expand its campus by building a cafeteria, gymnasium and theatre.

The innovative school has struggled to raise money this year for its \$2.8 million operating budget. The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dean and Dan do it all

Dan and Dean Caten are loving this moment in the limelight.

The twin-brother team behind the fashion label Dsquared2 are on TV and the radio, they created concert costumes for Madonna and Britney Spears, and they'll be outfitting the headlining performers at the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Earlier this year, they received a star on Canada's

Walk of Fame — the only fashion designers to be honoured alongside the likes of Michael J. Fox and Wayne Gretzky.

They have a collection of branded MAC cosmetics as well as eyewear and fragrance deals. But any time it seems success might go to their heads, they remember their modest Canadian roots and have a good chuckle.

Actually, they do more than chuckle, they crack

each other up, communicating in shorthand that takes other people in the room a little while to understand.

"We are twins in every sense of the word," says Dan, who describes himself as the more approachable of the two — although he's also the one who'll crack the whip at work. Dean claims he's "taller and thinner," sucking in his cheeks and striking a model-worthy pose.



Dan, left, and Dan Caten are fashion designers, and now TV hosts.

Hysterics ensue

They've been this close since the day they were born in 1964 in Willowdale, a neighbourhood in north Toronto, and have wanted to work in fashion almost as long, Dean says.

Family life was as ordinary as it could be in a household with nine kids, yet he and Dan always had an eye on a bigger picture that his family couldn't

Still, they're proud of their Canadian roots: Maple leaves are incorporated into several designs each season.

Music is a key source of inspiration, the Catens say, and they put together the playlist for their runway

metr⊕

shows as they're sketching styles. Their famous soundtracks led to XM Radio's Dean and Dan On Air: Style in Stereo and now they host Bravo's new Launch My Line, which gives artistic professionals a chance to break into the fashion biz.

The Catens' personalities largely serve as the glue for the TV show.

"Not only are they supercredible, hot and talented designers, the idea of having identical twin brother designers as fashion hosts is as unique as they are," says Andy Cohen, senior vice-president of original programming and develop-

"Plus they're fun, fun, fun!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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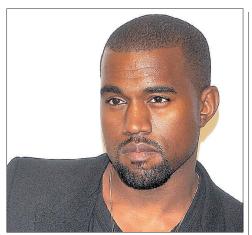
Weekend, December 18-20, 2009

Seinfeld to replace O'Brien?

With Conan O'Brien's disappointing transition into the Tonight Show chair, popeater.com is reporting that NBC has its eyes on replacing him with none other than comedian, Jerry Seinfeld. POPEATER.COM



Going Out



Kanye West was among some of the celebrities that brought the

2009 sees some wacky, tacky celeb moments

If only there were more Kanye Wests in the world. No wait — lemme finish!! Yes, West proved he was a complete jerk when he jumped onstage and interrupted Taylor Swift's glory moment at the MTV Video Music Awards. It was a moment audiences live to

But what if West could have interrupted those other moments we didn't want

Then we wouldn't be nursing scarred brains caused by 2009's worst moments, such as: a smiling Joe Jackson hawking his record label for cameras a few days after his son Michael's death; octo-dad Jon Goesslin's creepy transformation from henpecked husband to sleazy bachelor; any of Chris Brown's halfhearted apologies; Tiger Woods' transgressions of the heart

A few samplings of more Wacky & Tacky moments of the past year:

TIGER'S SWING: Did you ever think we'd be handicapping Tiger's mistresses instead of his golf game? Sports' ultimate boy scout became the tabloid gift that kept on giving when a bizarre car accident outside his home started a chain that revealed he had more side dishes than an all-youcan-eat buffet. From porn stars to waitresses, the married father-of-two may have showed that his conquests included more than the world of golf.

THIS IS WHY THEY INVENTED THE TERM "NO COMMENT": Let's be honest — when you expect sage social and

political commentary from a beauty contestant, you've got a problem (see Sarah Palin). But it's bizarre that Carrie Prejean's anti-gay marriage stance at a Miss USA pageant seemed to set off more fury than when the same sentiments were uttered by any of the nation's elected officials (including our president). Still, it's hard to feel sorry for Prejean, who latched on to the family values contingent, but then it was revealed that she had breast implants, nude photos and a solo sex tape. The only thing she wasn't accused of being was one of Tiger's mistresses. But give it time: The list is still growing.

MAYBE CHINA WAS RIGHT: Sure, a one-child policy might seem a little ex-treme, but after watching the questionable to downright scary parenting skills of Nadva Suleman and Ion and Kate Gosselin, maybe the United States needs to follow China's lead. All three used the celebrity of their multiple-birth chil-dren to stay in the limelight. But karma will soon catch up - in the form of multiple teenagers.

HERE WE GO AGAIN Jude Law, 36, and Sienna Miller, 27, are moving in together, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pair — who have rekindled their romance after splitting up in 2006 when the actor had an affair with his children's nanny — are so "in love they are now looking to buy a new London pad early next year so they can be together all the time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metro's **7**th **Heaven:** Metro taps what's hot right now

Jason Reitman **DIRECTOR** This Canadian-born filmmaker is the new It Boy of Hollywood. He burst upon the scene with Thank You for Not Smoking and went on to score a hit with Juno. Now with Up In The Air, he seems poised to soar during awards season. The George Clooney-starring film picked up six Golden Globe nominations this week and is a clear favourite to work the same magic at the Oscars.

Kid sings Jason Mraz VIDEO A five-year-old proves that not knowing the lyrics to a song and being out of tune are no impediments to stardom. Armed with a ukulele, the Japanese boy sings the ubiquitous I'm Yours on this viral video, which has garnered close to five million hits. Take that, cute kittens.

District 9 DVD James Cameron, take note: It only takes \$30 million to make arguably one of the best sci-fi films ever. Set in his native South Africa, director Neill Blomkamp targets everything from xenophobia to class conflict in this start-to-finish entertainer. And it's not all politics — there are plenty of things blowing up and oozing out to keep Michael Bay-fed audiences happy as well.



Decade/year-end lists NEWS Nickelback best of band of the decade (Billboard)? Animal Collective's My Girls best song of the year (Pitchfork)? When it comes to media, 'tis the season of those authoritative, we-know-it-all picks. And, thanks to the end of the first 10 years of the mil-

lennium, we get two lists of each instead of one.

Cleaving: Julie Powell **BOOK** Subtitled A Story of Marriage, Meat and Obsession, this memoir serves up tales from the slaughterhouse and garnishes them with the dirty entrails of the writer's own marriage gone bad. It's a particularly bloody affair - replete with both adultery and offal. A far cry from the sad-but-content Powell we were getting used to from Julie & Julia.



Avatar

FILM Actually, Did You Hear About The Morgans? was our first choice ... just kidding. No movie opening this week can stand up to the gazillion-dollar behemoth that is Avatar. Ontario-born James Cameron dishes out the ultimate Hollywood spectacle in as many cinematic forms as you can imagine - 2-D, 3-D and IMAX. So, the big box-office question is: Will it sink Titanic?

Nine: OST ALBUM Chicago director Rob Marshall revives the 1982 award-winning musical, which was based on Frederico Fellini's arthouse hit 81/2. Everyone from Black



Eyed Peas' Fergie to Nicole Kidman to Penelope Cruz flex their vocal chords for this big screen adaptation of the story of an Italian filmmaker and the women in his life.

Mix of Six

A Leahy Family **Christmas**

When: Friday, 7 p.m. Where: The National Arts

A Leahy Family Christ-mas with the NAC Orchestra unites Canadian musipowerhouse family Leahy with conductor Stéphane Laforest, the NAC Orchestra, and the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir.

Aladdin

When: Friday to Sunday Where: Shenkman Arts Centre

The East End Theatre will present its popular Christmas panto. This show brings to life a version of Aladdin that begins in China and ends in Egypt.

Christmas Tea

When: Saturday & Sunday. noon to 4 p.m. Where: SBillings Estate National Historic Site

Carolers will entertain you as you enjoy Christmas desserts and tea inside the 1820s wood-framed house, and Christmas crafts will keep the kids busy while you relax and enjoy the beauty of the season. Firstcome, first-served.

Ketch Harbour

Wolves When: Saturday, 8 p.m. Where:Zaphod Beeblebrox, 27 York St.

The music of Ontario's Ketch Harbour Wolves ranges from episodes of sprawling emotional energy to moments of cathartic stillness.

Stuart McLean

When: Saturday & Sunday. Where: The National Arts Centre

One of Canada's most beloved storytellers and a bestselling author, Stuart McLean's is back with stories about Dave, owner of a secondhand record store.

John McDermott

When: Sunday, 3 p.m. Where: Centrepointe Theatre

"Legend" is not a title John McDermott would readily embrace, but his accomplishments have become legendary in recording industry lore.



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> 40% OFF all holiday cards and calendars all 4 days!



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44 movies&entertainment

Entertainment



Kids went crazy for anything Pokémon ... cards, toys, backpacks.

Once so hot, now so not

With more fads than folks at an American Idol audition, the past decade has been a difficult time to culturally define. Superheroes, disaster

Superheroes, disaster movies, reality TV, professional wrestling and a boy wizard named Harry Potter weathered the decade's ever-changing pop culture storm while others rode the aughts like a roller coaster. Britney Spears was in, then out, then in again, advantageously morphing herself from teen queen to train wreck to pop diva within the 10-year span.

Here are 10 things that were oh-so-hot at the beginning of the 2000s that turned totally cold by the bitter end:

"WASSUP?" Those once funny Budweiser beer commercials had the nation growling "wassup?" after the campaign debuted at the end of 1999. The wacky greeting went on to face a barrage of parodies in the new millennium. The original "wassup?" dudes reteamed in 2008 for a viral video marking President Barack Obama's win before quickly fading back into obscurity.

POKÉMON. The "pocket monster" franchise was a full-blown craze with kids at the start of the '00s, having already spawned several movies, TV series, video games and toys. Love for Pikachu waned, though, as tots turned into teens. Pokémon 4Ever, the third Pokémon film, flopped at the box office and subsequent sequels went direct to DVD in the U.S.

NAPSTER. The free file-sharing service was the "it" way to grab digital tunes at the dawn of the 21st century. Created by 19-year-old Shawn Fanning, the program ignited a legal brouhaha with the recording industry. By the time Napster transformed into a subscription service, lis-



Mel Gibson's mugshot from his 2006 arrest for DUI

teners had moved on to iTunes. Today, Napster is owned by Best Buy.

MEL GIBSON. The suave actor-director was riding high at the beginning of the aughts with The Patriot, What Women Want and The Passion of the Christ, but what he will likely be remembered most for this decade is his infamous slur-filled 2006 drunk driving arrest. After he completed his three-year probation, Gibson's conviction was expunged in 2009.

NINTENDO GAMECUBE. In 2001, five years before Nintendo revolutionized gaming with the Wii, the Mario Bros. mastermind plopped down the GameCube, the Wii's itty-bitty precursor, featuring a clunky controller. The console's robust graphics initially piqued players' interest, but the GameCube could not overcome Sony's mega-popular PlayStation 2 system.

PlayStation 2 system.

'NSYNC. The boy band jump-started the '00s with the album No Strings Attached, which continues to hold the record for biggest first-week CD sales at 2.4 million. Another album and a few tours later, the quintet quietly disbanded. They spent the rest of the aughts pursuing solo careers while also addressing reunion rumours. Maybe next decade?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



America's Next Top Model is in vogue. The model competition series has named André Leon Talley, Vogue magazine's editor-at-large, as its new fourth judge, TVGuide.com has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES



movies&entertainment 45

Celebrity Buzz

Frances Bean slaps Love with restraining order

NO SNARK, JUST SAD Courtney Love's custody debacle seems to only be getting worse, as a Los Angeles judge has now issued a restraining order keeping her from seeing her daughter, Frances Bean Cobain, according to Page

The order was reportedly acquired after Love took to her Facebook account to savage her daughter with a series of expletiveladen rants after losing custody of the 17-year-old.



Hermione tops decade's highest-paid actress list

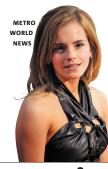
Watson is the highest paid actress of the past decade, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Harry Potter actress who plays Hermione Granger in the wizard film series, which started in 2001 — has been awarded the title by the Guinness Book of World Records.

19-year-old star's starring role in the six films, as well as her voice

part in animated movie The Tale Of Despereaux, helped take \$5.4 billion US worldwide, putting the takings ahead of some of Hollywood's big players including Julia Roberts, Halle Berry and Cameron Diaz.

She also boasts the highest average box office re-ceipts per movie, with each of her films making an average \$897,100,000.



Baxter to pen memoirs

COMING OUT TO A BOOK-STORE NEAR you Having come out in the pages of People earlier this month as a real-life lesbian mother, Meredith Baxter - who played the popular TV mom Elyse Keaton on the '80s sitcom Family Ties will now put her entire story to paper, people.com reports.

This week, the Broadway Books imprint of Crown Publishing Group nounced it had acquired a vet-to-be-written. vet-totitled memoir by Baxter, who "will present a fully realized portrait of her life as an actress, mother of five children and grandmother, and will can-didly discuss her fight

with breast cancer, her 19 years of sobriety,

Beckham's karaoke nightmares

entrepreneurship and her decision to come out." says the publisher, ports The New York Times. METRO

Tiger romance rumours a "lie," says Simpson

BUT PLEASE KEEP PUBLISHING STORIES ABOUT ME ANYWAY

Jessica Simpson was quick to set the record straight about rumors that she once flirted with Tiger Woods, taking to her Twitter account to refute a Star magazine cover story.

'Can't believe that I'm on the cover of star magazine with Tiger Woods, what a joke," Simpson posted on her account. The Shocking Inside Story' is (insert drumroll) a



Celebrity tweets

Josh Groban is in the holiday spirit, Tyra Banks doesn't mean to be so difficult, Paris Hilton is staying in, and Kevin Spacey

wants to hang out. @joshgroban I always think its

cute when music press aets downright flabbergasted that christmas music is topping the charts in december. @tyrabanks i'm crazy, talking 'bout my tummy not feeling good from creamy ice cream then complaining when they don't give u en-

@ParisHilton Just ordered Italian food to be delivered. Yum! So hungry!

 @KevinSpacev I am standing on stage at the Old Vic with Eddie Izzard who is just about to do his show. Come down for a drink.



Shia's sweet un-Hollywood date

FCO-LOVE Shia LeBeouf has been showing British girlfriend Carey Mulligan the sights of his hometown — by bus. The Transformers star was spotted making out with his Wall Street 2 co-star at a busstop near his Sherman Oaks, Calif., home before taking her out for lunch, shopping

mall, according to People magazine. "They are very sweet couple," source savs. METRO

and a movie at a nearby

JUST FAKE AN INJURY, BECKS David Beckham says it isn't easy sitting down to dinner with Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, usmagazine.com

reports.

We were at dinner once with Tom and Katie ... and we sat there and everyone was like, 'OK, let's play a music game, let's start a singing game!" Beckham,

34, recalled on George Lopez's TBS late night show Lopez Tonight, on Wednes day

Singing in public, he said, "Is my worst night-mare!" Beckham said he noticed one of his friends was dining at another table nearby.

"So I was texting my friend, 'Oh, please, invite me to your table!'" said Beckham. "I kind of get uncomfortable with

Hudson's sad New Year's Eve plans?

AWWW Kate Hudson's New Year's Eve plans have been thrown into disarray thanks to her split from A-Rod. as the pair was set to spend the holiday in Miami, according to Life & Style Weekly magazine.

They were both scheduled to appear together at several bashes," a source

Obviously that's not happening now. She cancelled. She cancelled everything. She's not go-ing to Miami at all."

> METRO WORLD NEWS

Graham wants pregnant strip tease in Hangover sequel

PORTS THE MASS SUICIDE OF A MILLION ADOLESCENT FAN-TASIES Heather Graham can't wait for a sequel to hit movie The Hangover, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The star is looking forward to playing a pregnant stripper, but has yet to see a

script. The much-anticipated follow up is already pitching ideas to writer/director Todd Phillips for her character, Jade.

Graham says, "I think Stu should get her pregnant, and that she should do a pregnant strip dance. "I know it sounds so



wrong, but it sounds right.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hugh Grant doesn't think he's 'special'

IF ONLY MORE ACTORS HAD HALF AS MUCH SELF-AWARE-NESS Hugh Grant doesn't think he's all that special. "I'm very picky but also very limited as an actor," Grant tells USA Today. "I've always said that if you give me an Ibsen script, I can get away with it. But there



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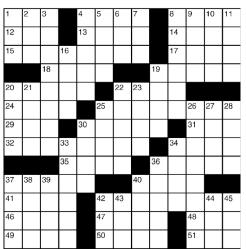


For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews





Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

					1		7	
6	1				5	2		
	9		2			4		
	2			4	3		5	
8								6
	7		6	5			2	
		7			9		8	
		2	1				9	3
	4		8					

1 Tummy

muscles 4 Talon 8 European capital 12 Rotation duration 13 Swearword 14 Satanic 15 Roget's list? 17 Edges 18 Hair salon supply 19 High nest 20 Ranch statistic 22 Isinglass 24 Lummox 25 Do the tourist thing 29 Felon's flight 30 Hiawatha's transport 31 Singer Sumac 32 Willing participant? 34 Heal, as a fracture 35 Addict 36 Theater array

37 Leonine

comments

40 Dance lesson 41 Tel -42 It makes a

47 Inheritor 48 Wapiti

49 Coaster

Hudson 3 Group of symptoms

parlor stack 5 Deposits 6 \$ dispenser 8 Prepare leftovers 9 Finished role

> 20 Competent 21 Wheedle

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2 1 7

6 8 4 9 1 2

> 9 8 2 6 3 5 1

7 5

5 6 2 4 8

4 3 1

8

9 2 6

3 5

long story short 46 Put together

50 Catch sight of 51 Crafty

1 Billboards 2 Chesapeake or 4 Ice-cream 7 "How come?" 10 "La Boheme" 11 Differently 16 — and terminer 19 Rue the run

22 Not that **Metro Recipe of the Day** important 23"Young Frankenstein' role

25 Fill till full 26 Spots between neurons

27 Send forth 28 Chows down

30 Talk a blue streak?

33 Not straight 34 Retain

36 Tale 37 St. Louis team

38 Elliptical 39 Staffer 40 Wield scissors

42 That girl

43 "Absolutely' 44 Under the

weather 45 Firmament

3 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 1

8 3 5

4 9 6

7 3 5

6 8

3 7

2 6 3

7 2 6 9 5 8

9 4

5 8

YOU'VE BEEN

ME LATELY.

1

3

Chicken, Thyme and Mushroom

INGREDIENTS:

Soup

2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil 7 oz (200 g) skinless chicken breast fillets, diced 1 red onion, chopped 1 garlic clove, chopped 2 celery sticks, chopped 1/2 lb (250 g) mushrooms, chopped

1 tbsp (15 mL) chopped fresh thyme 1 tbsp (15 mL) dry sherry

1 tbsp (15 mL) Worcestershire sauce 3 cups (750 mL) chicken

4 tbsp (60 mL) sour cream

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large pot and fry chicken 5 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pot and set aside. Add onion, garlic and celery to pot and cook 5 minutes.

2. Add chopped mushrooms, thyme, sherry and Worcestershire sauce. Season lightly and cook vegetables 2-3 minutes, stirring occasion-

3. Tip mixture into food processor and add half of stock. Process until smooth, then return to pot and add remaining stock. Return chicken to pot and heat until boiling Simmer 3 minutes. Stir in 2 tbsp (25 mL) sour cream and return to boil. 4. Ladle into bowls and swirl small spoonful of re-

maining sour cream on to

SERVES 4

rd.ca

allv.

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check t Key Ingredients



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20 Duty calls today and although you might not want to knuckle down you know if you don't you will be up against the clock the whole weekend.

SEPT 23-OCT 23

Keep your opinions to yourself, especially on the home front where things could get tense if you speak your mind.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21 The Sun moves into one of the best areas of your chart on the 21st and it won't be long before you've forgotten all about your

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

worries

You may not be able to speak freely now but come the 21st you will more than make up for your current reticence.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21 You may not be in the most so-ciable of moods today but that's okay because the more time you spend thinking and planning the better.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21
You know that someone needs help and you are more than willing to give it but what can you do when they keep pushing you away?

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

For some reason you cannot be bothered to make much of an effort at the moment but everything that needs to be done will be done for you by others

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20
If you get the chance to do a good deed for someone do it but don't make a big deal about

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

Don't waste time arguing with others about trivial matters. There are far more important issues you should be focusing on now

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

According to the planets some one is as attracted to you as you are to them but they are finding it difficult to make the first move. So take the first step.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

Heal a rift with a partner or loved one today. Say sorry. Put the relationship before your

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

You may be having problems with a relationship but the effects are not yet so bad that you cannot patch things up and get back to how it was before.

This day in history

1787 - New Jersey becomes the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

1932 - The Chicago Bears defeat the Portsmouth Spartans 9-0 in the first ever NFL Championship Game. Because of a blizzard, the game was moved from Wrigley Field to the Chicago Stadium, the field measuring 80 yards (73 m) long.

1956 – Japan joins the United Nations.

1996 - The Oakland, California school board passes a resolution officially declaring "Ebonics" a language or dialect. METRO NEWS SERVICES



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MOVIE A

Stor Trak

Star Trek MOVIE B
Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince MOVIE C

The Hangover MOVIE D

X-Men Origin: Wolverine MOVIE E
Angels & Demons MOVIE F

District 9 MOVIE G



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06 PATHFINDER SE St# 28503

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09 FORD FLEX St# 28953 \$32,850 \$272

08 SUZUKI XL-7 LOAD, A/C, CD St# 28842 37506km \$19,850 \$196

09 COROLLA CE LOAD, A/C St# 28910 \$14,450 \$123

LOAD St# 28646

08 TOYOTA RAV4 \$24,850 \$212



09 MAZDA CX-7 St# 28801 15348km \$27,880 \$231

St# 28412 58337km \$16,470 \$157

t# 28736 \$12,380 \$105

09 MATRIX \$16,850 \$143

07 XTERRA AWD, A/C, LOAD **\$23,850** \$203

St# 28761 41477km \$29,860 \$248*

06 EQUINOX LS AWD, LOAD, A/C St# 27766 78063km **\$14,250** \$136

07 FORD F-150 FX4 TRITON 4X4, LOAD, \$25,890 \$215

05 NISSAN X-TRAIL SE LOAD, ROO \$12,980 \$142

07 PATRIOT \$16,950 \$144

\$26,680 \$221

09 HONDA CR-V

06 SIENNA I E OAD. A/C \$18,950 \$180

St# 28886

07 SENTRA 2.0 \$11,950 \$102

06 OUTBACK LTD St# 28335



06 PONTIAC G6 St# 28914 \$10,650 \$101

St# 28948 75590km



06 MAZDA5 \$10,850 \$103

06 PILOT EX St#28542 \$23,950 \$228 07 SILVERADO LS 1500 St# 28950

\$17,850 \$152*

\$21,890 \$208 08 JETTA 2.5

St# 28361 67739km

\$15,900 \$135



07 LEGACY LOAD, A/C ROOF, AUTO \$17,950 \$153 09 FORD FLEX

\$32,850 \$272

St# 27416-A \$9,450

08 COBALT LS

\$7,970

05 COROLLA CE

\$87

05 ΜΔΙΙΒΙΙ ΜΔΧΧ ΙΤ \$8,950

05 CIVIC SE

\$8,970

\$16,980 \$145*

\$22,850 \$218

St# 28496 73178km



St# 28721

08 IMPREZA 2.5 \$20,860 \$178

07 COBALT SS COUPE St# 28949

\$10,980

888

\$93

05 RELAY St# 28860

\$9,840

08 SPECTRA St# 28902

\$85

05 MAZDA3 St# 27498

\$9,950

St# 28653

\$109

05 UPLANDER \$8,850 \$97

\$98*

\$18,850 \$160 05 CADILLAC CTS

\$16,750 \$183*

06 AUDI A6 3.2 AWD, LOAD, St#27935

\$29,950 \$278

50

06 RMW 325 XI AWD, LOAD,

\$29,950 \$278

St# 28306

LOAD, A/C,

\$9,980

05 VIRE

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\$9,980

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